



AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



REVIEWS

[HOME](#)
[NEWS](#)
[SPORTS](#)
[FOOD](#)
[HOTELS](#)
[THINGS TO DO](#)
[ATTRACTIONS](#)
[THEME PARKS](#)
[ZOO](#)
[GETAWAYS](#)
[CASINOS](#)
[LIFESTYLE](#)
[MOVIES](#)
[ARTS & THEATRE](#)
[COMEDY](#)
[MUSIC](#)
[CONTESTS](#)
[FREE STUFF](#)
[BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)
[INDEX »](#)

SAN DIEGO ARTS

<http://www.sandiego.com/arts-and-theatre>

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY at the Old Globe Theatre

People More Miserable Than Ourselves

By [Welton Jones](http://www.sandiego.com/writers/welton-jones) • Fri, May 13th, 2011

Outside, the corn maybe as high as an elephant's eye, but inside the cluttered old Weston mansion is an Oklahoma far from Rodgers and Hammerstein, lurching toward a climax that may purify but probably destroy the ragged remnants of a family.

0 1
[http://w
 -osage-](http://www.sandiego.com/arts-and-theatre/august-osage-county-at-the-old-globe-theatre)

Old Beverly Weston is a prize-winning poet who somehow hasn't written anything much in recent decades. Waving a half-full bottle of whiskey, he explains that his wife of many years is upstairs somewhere in a drugged haze. "My wife takes drugs and I drink," he notes. "It's a paragraph in our wedding contract."

All this and much more is contained in the three weighty acts of Tracy Letts' drama AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, now at the Old Globe Theatre through June 12.

The best American family showdown plays – Eugene O'Neill's LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT and Edward Albee's WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? – concentrate on a mere quartet of the damned; Letts enlists 13 characters for his cataclysm. And only the outsiders emerge unscathed.

This being August in Oklahoma, pet tropical birds have been know to die in the heat of the old house. And Osage County is one of those remote, desolate wastelands that sensible people leave as soon as they're able, leaving the losers to fade into sullen oblivion. So hopelessly barren is the outdoors, in fact, that Globe set-designer David Zinn hasn't tried to suggest it, offering an indifferent slice of the unadorned Globe backstage instead.

For an interior, though, Zinn has pulled together a brutally naturalistic, multi-layered ant farm, encrusted with the accumulated detritus from careless decades of sloth, more or less reflecting this family.

Letts' play might be Wagner's Ring operas without the music. There's nobody without a built-in burden, usually nasty. Disease, substance abuse, greed, lust, envy, pedophilia, incest and an abundance of self-pity are paraded past in service of revelation. And the author offers little in the way of catharsis, just a series of slammed doors and a suggestion of ultimate comeuppance.

But that's refreshing, if such a word can be applied to such a miasma of misery. The traditional payoff of such suffering is redemption; the more modern residue is despair at the realization that the cycle will now repeat itself. Both redemption and despair are here brushed aside by the rats leaving the sinking ship of Osage County. And the author lets our conclusions fall where they may.

It's a big old juicy play, with lots of cussing and cigarette smoking. Hurtful words are flung like monkeys' dung, sudden blows are struck, dishes shatter and it's never long until the next dirty secret rolled out for display. Laughter at recognized foibles tends to freeze into shocked embarrassed silence. Gasps are not unknown.

Director Sam Gold has persuaded his excellent cast to push past decorum and expose their characters without mercy. His pacing is so meaningful and solemn that even slight gestures can powerfully underscore moments. And he manages the considerable traffic through the set with an effortless logic that never distracts from tight individual scenes, so deftly illuminated by Japhy Weideman's knowing light design.

Sadly, the story allows only one long scene by the foxy Robert Foxworth, playing the ruined poet, but he sets a tone and leaves a presence that informs the rest of the show. It is Lois Markle as his poisonous wife, ranging with reckless zeal from pillowed incoherence to cruel and crystalline bullying, who gets all the best confrontation scenes.

Of the three daughters, Angela Reed is volatile as the heir-apparent, Carla Harting is touching as the wasted stay-at-home and Kelly McAndrew slips in giddy desperation down the hopeless slope toward the wrong man. Joseph Adams as a husband in the act of wandering off, Haynes Thigpen playing a nebbish cousin and Robert Maffia as a too-slick hustler are the damaged men in their lives.

Robin Pearson Rose and Guy Boyd accomplish the admirable goal of making stereotypes human. As the representative older generation couple, each piles on more humanity and plausibility with every subsequent scene. And Ronete Levenson does something similar with a very well-observed and well-written 15-year-old nymphet. Todd Cerveris is stolid as the local sheriff and Kimberly Guerrero plays with dignity the most tiresome stereotype in the play, a stoic Native-American housekeeper.

Altogether, this is an admirable mounting of a impressive play in a grand American tradition of bruising encounter, emotional excess and dishing the dirt from those probably worse off than ourselves.

[DOWNLOAD PROGRAM HERE \(http://static.sandiego.com/articlefiles/5453f055-3015-4ebf-b080-2799b77a60cc/OGOOsageTitle5-11.PDF\)](http://static.sandiego.com/articlefiles/5453f055-3015-4ebf-b080-2799b77a60cc/OGOOsageTitle5-11.PDF)

[DOWNLOAD CAST LIST HERE \(http://static.sandiego.com/articlefiles/5453f055-3015-4ebf-b080-2799b77a60cc/OGOOsageCast5-11.PDF\)](http://static.sandiego.com/articlefiles/5453f055-3015-4ebf-b080-2799b77a60cc/OGOOsageCast5-11.PDF)

The Details

Category [Arts \(http://www.sandiego.com/arts-and-theatre\)](http://www.sandiego.com/arts-and-theatre)

Dates 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. Sundays through June 12,. 2011.

Organization The Old Globe Theatre

Phone 619 234-5623

Production Type [Play \(http://www.sandiego.com/related/production-type/play\)](http://www.sandiego.com/related/production-type/play)

Region [Balboa Park \(http://www.sandiego.com/related/region/balboa-park\)](http://www.sandiego.com/related/region/balboa-park)

Ticket Prices \$29-\$85

URL www.theoldglobe.org

Venue Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego



comments powered by [disqus \(http://disqus.com\)](http://disqus.com)

SIGNON
 SAN DIEGO

NIGHT AND DAY


[NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [OBITS](#) [OPINION](#) [LIFESTYLE](#) [NIGHT & DAY](#) [VISIT SD](#) [TRAVEL](#) [RADIO](#) [DEALS](#)
[WEATHER](#) 66° F [TRAFFIC](#) [WEBCAMS](#) **HOT TOPICS:** [BIN LADEN](#) | [BUDGET WATCH](#) | [PADRES](#)


Theater & Performing Arts

[THEATER NEWS](#) [PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS](#) [VISUAL ARTS EVENTS](#)
[Like](#)
[Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

[EMAIL](#)
[PRINT](#)
[SAVE](#)

0

[Share](#)

2



Play review: A monumentally raw 'August'

The Old Globe stages Tracy Letts' gripping, gasp-inducing Pulitzer-winner.

 BY [JAMES HEBERT](#)

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011 AT 3:03 P.M.

All families have scars. The Westons have war wounds.

Those blood ties just keep on bleeding in “[August: Osage County](#),” [Tracy Letts](#)’ lacerating, [Pulitzer Prize](#)-winning domestic epic. And the Westons – who settle scores by

digging at old sores – wouldn't have it any other way.

As directed by [Sam Gold](#) and performed by a fearless cast, "August," which just opened at the [Old Globe Theatre](#), proves a work of savage majesty, shot through with equal measures of sadness and laughter. Its sense of cold foreboding at calamities to come provokes, in a playgoer, a weird sensation: A sense of dread at what you might find funny next.

The crucible for this three-act, three-hour modern gothic is the Westons' faded family home in rural Oklahoma; as designed for the Globe by David Zinn, it's an imposing, almost claustrophobic diorama of tatty furniture and packed-away miseries.

The place is also a blast furnace of nastiness, thanks mainly to matriarch Violet (Lois Markle), who doesn't believe in air conditioning but does believe in icing the affections and aspirations of her three daughters.

They've come home to stand vigil for their father, Beverly (the quietly affecting [Robert Foxworth](#)), a onetime poet turned full-time drinker who split days ago and hasn't been heard from since.

The audience has heard from him, though, in a prologue where he talks ominously to the just-hired Native American caretaker Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero) of his weariness at existence.

As he speaks, we see a stumbling, incoherent Violet wandering the upper floors, zonked on pills. Disheveled and disoriented, she resembles a female [King Lear](#) – a storm raging in her addled brain as the unnerving chirp of cicadas stabs at the vastness of the Great Plains outside.



/ HENRY DIROCCO

The going gets rough for Violet Weston (Lois Markle, on couch) and her family in the Pulitzer Prize-winning "August: Osage County," now at the Old Globe Theatre.

DETAILS

"August: Osage County"

Old Globe Theatre

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays (no matinee June 4); 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays; plus 1 p.m. June 1. Through June 12.

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85 Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

The show gathers momentum slowly, as the three grown daughters (who share some of the same parental antipathy as Lear's) trickle in with their families. But once the friction begins in earnest, "August" turns hair-raising, with dizzying shifts in emotion.

Eldest daughter Barb (a blisteringly raw Angela Reed) is in the midst of a bitter separation from her cheating husband, Bill (Joseph Adams), a college prof; their teen daughter Jean (Ronete Levenson), meantime, has become a precocious pothead.

Karen (Kelly McAndrew), the youngest, is a serial denialist clinging desperately to fiancé Steve (Robert Maffia), whom she believes is the perfect man. (We're led to understand otherwise.) Caught in the middle is Ivy (Carla Harting), the only daughter to have stayed near home; she's in a secret love affair that may prove to have jaw-dropping consequences.

Also on hand are Violet's brutally blunt sister, Mattie Fae (Robin Pearson Rose), and her husband, the cowed but kindhearted Charlie (Guy Boyd). They're at odds over Little Charles (Haynes Thigpen), their directionless son, whom Charlie dotes on. Sheriff Deon (Todd Cerveris), Barb's long-ago flame, drops in briefly with news of Beverly.

A dinner party that starts with Charlie's hilariously awkward attempt at saying grace ends in something like a rugby scrum. In between come words that might burn the ears off the most jaded playgoer, as Vi (who has mouth cancer in addition to a corroded soul) harps on her own blighted childhood and coolly picks apart her daughters.

To give more specifics would risk ruining major plot surprises. Suffice to say that the remarkable Markle turns in about the most gut-wrenchingly memorable performance you're likely to see on a live stage.

"Life is very long," says Beverly at the top of the show, quoting T.S. Eliot. Violet bookends that sentiment with a line recited like an incantation: "And then you're gone."

But in this show, not easily forgotten.

jim.hebert@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-2040 • Twitter @jimhebert • Facebook
facebook.com/houseseats



Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Union-Tribune
Publishing Date: May 14, 2011
Circulation: 408,825
Page Number: 3
Article Size: 47 sq inch
Ad Value: \$7,261.18

THEATER REVIEW

'AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY' MAJESTIC, GUT-WRENCHING

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

All families have scars. The Westons have war wounds.

Those blood ties just keep on bleeding in "August: Osage County," Tracy Letts' lacerating, Pulitzer Prize-winning domestic epic. And the Westons — who settle scores by digging at old sores — wouldn't have it any other way.

As directed by Sam Gold and performed by a fearless cast, "August," which just opened at the Old Globe Theatre, proves a work of savage majesty, shot through with equal measures of sadness and laughter.

The crucible for this three-act, three-hour modern gothic is the Westons' faded family home in rural Oklahoma; as designed for the Globe by David Zinn, it's an imposing, almost claustrophobic diorama of



Angela Reed (from left), Carla Harting and Kelly McAndrew star in "August: Osage County," running through June 12 at the Old Globe. **HENRY DIROCCO**

tatty furniture and packed-away miseries.

The place is also a blast furnace of nastiness, thanks mainly to matriarch Violet (Lois Markle), who doesn't believe in air conditioning but does believe in icing the affections and aspirations of her three daughters.

They've come home to stand vigil for their father, Beverly (the gently affecting Robert Foxworth),

a onetime poet turned full-time drinker who split days ago and hasn't been heard from since. The audience has heard from him, though, in a prologue where he talks ominously to the just-hired caretaker Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero) of his weariness at existence.

As he speaks, we see a stumbling, incoherent Violet wandering the upper floors, zonked



brought to you by

San Diego Clipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Union-Tribune
Publishing Date: May 14, 2011
Circulation: 408,825
Page Number: 3
Article Size: 47 sq inch
Ad Value: \$7,261.18

Page 2 of 2

"August: Osage County"

Old Globe Theatre

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays (no matinee June 4); 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays; plus 1 p.m. June 1. Through June 12.

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

on pills. Disheveled and disoriented, she resembles a female King Lear — a storm raging in her addled brain as the unnerving chirp of cicadas stabs at the vastness of the Great Plains outside.

The show gathers momentum slowly, as the three

grown daughters trickle in with their families. But once the friction begins in earnest, "August" turns hair-raising, with dizzying shifts in emotion.

Eldest daughter Barb (a blisteringly raw Angela Reed) is enduring a bitter separation from her cheating husband, Bill (Joseph Adams); their teen daughter Jean (Ronete Levenson), meantime, has become a precocious pothead.

Karen (Kelly McAndrew), the youngest, is a serial denialist clinging desperately to fiancé Steve (Robert Maffia). Caught in the middle is Ivy (Carla Harting), the only daughter to have stayed near home; she's in a secret affair that may have jaw-dropping consequences.

Also on hand are Violet's brutally blunt sister, Mattie Fae (Robin Pearson Rose), and her husband, cowed but kindhearted

Charlie (Guy Boyd); they're at odds over their directionless son Little Charles (Haynes Thigpen). Sheriff Deon (Todd Cerveris) drops in briefly with news of Beverly.

A dinner party that starts with Charlie's hilariously ham-handed attempt at saying grace ends in something like a rugby scrum. In between come words that might burn the ears off the most jaded playgoer, as Vi harps on her own blighted childhood and coolly picks apart her daughters.

To give more specifics would risk ruining major plot surprises. Suffice to say that the remarkable Markle turns in about the most gut-wrenchingly memorable performance you're likely to see on a live stage.

"Life is very long," says Beverly at the top of the show, quoting T.S. Eliot. Violet bookends that sentiment with a line recited like an incantation: "And then you're gone." But in this show, not easily forgotten.

jim.hebert@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-2040 • Twitter @jimhebert

Like 68K

Subscribe/Manage Account Place Ad LAT Store Jobs Cars F

Los Angeles Times | ENTERTAINMENT

LOCAL U.S. WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL

MOVIES TELEVISION MUSIC CELEBRITY ARTS & CULTURE COMPANY TOWN CALENDAR

IN THE NEWS: CANNES FILM FESTIVAL | 'SURVIVOR' WINNER | 'TREE OF LIFE' | BRAD PITT | 'MAD LOVE'



Culture Monster

ALL THE ARTS, ALL THE TIME

[« Previous](#) | [Culture Monster Home](#)

Theater review: 'August: Osage County' at San Diego's Old Globe

May 16, 2011 | 4:00 pm

(3) (1) (0)



For the Old Globe's staging of Tracy Letts' acclaimed play "August: Osage County," scenic designer David Zinn has built a three-story dollhouse on a human scale. Director Sam Gold revels in his power as the unseen agent who manipulates the characters through its dim, cluttered rooms and passages as artfully as a Cirque du Soleil choreographer. There's always something shadowy going on upstairs or downstairs from the main action, and the central staircase provides the perfect spot for eavesdropping.

"August: Osage County," which won the 2008 Tony Award for best play and the Pulitzer Prize for drama, pretty much corners the market on black comedies about dysfunctional families. Try to come

up with a more damaged clan than the Westons of Pawhuska, Okla. They'll see your suicides, extramarital affairs, alcoholism and narcotics addiction, and raise you pedophilia and incest. You think your mother was emotionally abusive? She's a piker next to Violet (apparently based on Letts' grandmother), perhaps the most soul-chilling stage villain ever written.

In the prologue, patriarch Beverly Weston, a stalled poet (Robert Foxworth), is talking to Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero), a young Cheyenne woman he's hired to take care of the tasks that are, as he puts it, "getting in the way of my drinking." In shambles Violet, wacked out from pills she pops to numb the pain of mouth cancer, half-dressed, skeletal and incoherent. Anybody who has wrangled (or been) an intoxicated person will find her horrifyingly credible. Although Lois Markle plays it less for laughs than Estelle Parsons did in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production at the Ahmanson in fall 2009, she's even more grotesque and, somehow, funnier.

So the powerful malevolence that Violet displays after Beverly's disappearance comes as a shock. Her refusal to use the air conditioner, insistence on duct-taping trash bags over the windows and hostility toward the family members who rush to her side make the house hell on Earth. At the dinner table, Violet eviscerates her three daughters so relentlessly that a volley of gasps rises from the audience like a communal asthma attack (which is actually a plausible concern, given the real cigarettes she and many of the other characters smoke onstage).

"Everyone's got this idea I'm mean all of a sudden," Violet says self-pityingly.

Markle may be a perfectly nice person, but in this role she's so terrifying that if I ever find myself in a room with her I'll hit the deck, combat-crawl to the nearest exit and catch the first flight out of the country.

The other characters range from spineless to selfish to spiteful to self-deluding. The most honorable of the lot, Violet's brother-in-law Charlie (Guy Boyd), raises a wan cheer from the smoke-stunned audience with his defense of kindness. But of course he's a henpecked cuckold. Letts' pessimism about human nature powers the play's wit and insight. It also, after three hours, starts to feel brittle, even flip.

Still the enigmatic finale, when the formerly angelic Johnna quotes T.S. Eliot's poem "The Hollow Men" ("This is the way the world ends, this is the way the world ends ...") as Violet crawls to her begging for help, gave me goosebumps. Once again "August" proves itself a resilient and rewarding canvas for a strong directorial vision.

-- Margaret Gray

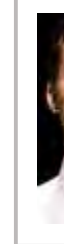
"August: Osage County," the Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego. 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 and 7 p.m. (with some exceptions). Ends June 12. \$29 to \$85. (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org. Running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes.

Photo: The Weston family attempts to wrestle a pill bottle away from addicted matriarch Violet (Lois Markle, on the couch) in "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe. Credit: Henry DiRocco.

@ Twitter: [@culturemonster](https://twitter.com/culturemonster)
Facebook: [culturemonster](https://www.facebook.com/culturemonster)

More in:

Sta



A

Mi
Jo
Li
Ch
Re
Ch
Ch
Da
Ke
Sh
Ma

R

—
Ti
D

.....

O

Lo

.....

M

V;

20

.....

M

pi

w

.....

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
 Publication Name: Los Angeles Times
 Publishing Date: May 19, 2011
 Circulation: 831,103
 Page Number: 7
 Article Size: 75 sq inch
 Ad Value: \$41,051.64

THEATER REVIEW

Family hostilities brought to chilling life

Dysfunction meets its kin in the powerful and painful 'August: Osage County' at the Old Globe.

MARGARET GRAY

For the Old Globe's staging of Tracy Letts' acclaimed play "August: Osage County," scenic designer David Zinn has built a three-story dollhouse on a human scale. Director Sam Gold revels in his power as the unseen agent who manipulates the characters through its dim, cluttered rooms and passages as artfully as a Cirque du Soleil choreographer. There's always something shadowy going on upstairs or downstairs from the main action, and the central staircase provides the perfect spot for eavesdropping.

"August: Osage County," which won the 2008 Tony Award for best play and the Pulitzer Prize for drama, pretty much corners the market on black comedies about dysfunctional families. Try to come up with a more damaged clan than the Westons of Pawhuska, Okla. They'll see your suicides, extramarital affairs, alcoholism and narcotics addiction, and raise you pedophilia and incest. You think your mother was emotionally abusive? She's a piker next to Violet (apparently based on Letts' grandmother), perhaps the most soul-chilling stage villain ever written.

In the prologue, patri-

'August: Osage County'

Where: the Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego
When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays (with some exceptions). Ends June 12
Tickets: \$29 to \$85
Information: (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org
Running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes

arch Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth), a stalled poet, is talking to Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero), a young Cheyenne woman he's hired to take care of the tasks that are, as he puts it, "getting in the way of my drinking." Violet stumbles in, wacked out from pills she pops to numb the pain of mouth cancer, half-dressed, skeletal and incoherent. Anybody who has wrangled (or been) an intoxicated person will find her horrifyingly credible.

Although Lois Markle plays it less for laughs than Estelle Parsons did in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production at the Ahmanson in fall 2009, she's even more grotesque and, somehow, funnier.

So the powerful malevolence that Violet displays after Beverly's disappearance comes as a shock. Her refusal to use the air conditioner, insistence on duct-taping trash bags over the windows and hostility toward the

family members who rush to her side make the house hell on Earth. At the dinner table, Violet eviscerates her three daughters so relentlessly that a volley of gasps rises from the audience like a communal asthma attack (which is actually a plausible concern, given the real cigarettes she and many of the other characters smoke onstage).

"Everyone's got this idea I'm mean all of a sudden," Violet says self-pityingly.

Markle may be a perfectly nice person, but in this role she's so terrifying that if I ever find myself in a room with her I'll hit the deck, combat-crawl to the nearest exit and catch the first flight out of the country.

The other characters range from spineless to selfish to spiteful to self-deluding. The most honorable of the lot, Violet's brother-in-law Charlie (Guy Boyd), raises a wan cheer from the smoke-stunned audience with his defense of kindness. But of course he's a hen-pecked cuckold. Letts' pessimism about human nature powers the play's wit and insight. It also, after three hours, starts to feel brittle, even flip.

Still the enigmatic finale, when the formerly angelic Johnna quotes T.S. Eliot's poem "The Hollow Men" ("This is the way the world ends, this is the way the world ends ...") as Violet crawls to her begging for help, gave me goosebumps.

Once again, "August" proves itself a resilient and rewarding canvas for a strong directorial vision.

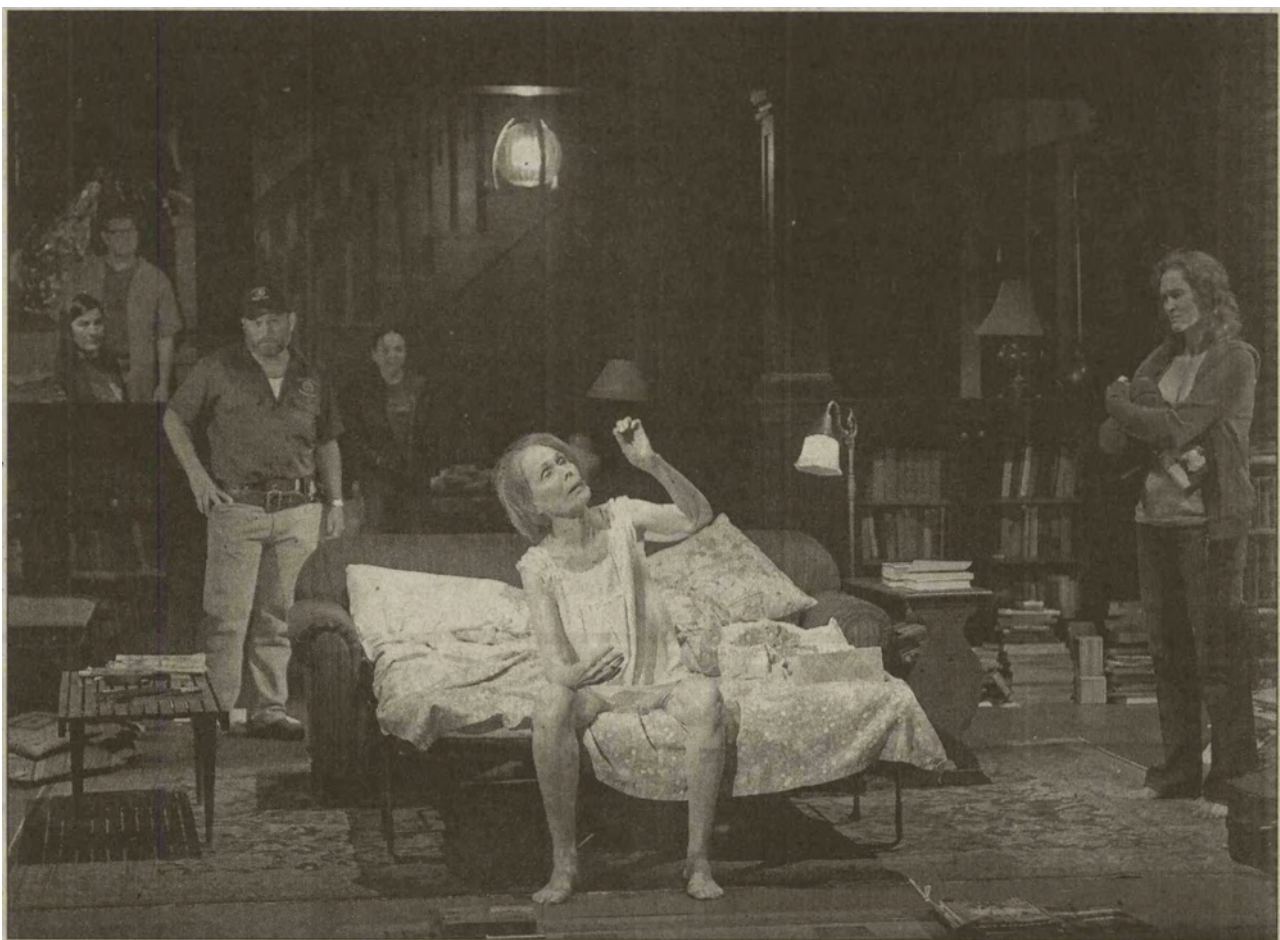


brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Los Angeles Times
Publishing Date: May 19, 2011
Circulation: 831,103
Page Number: 7
Article Size: 75 sq inch
Ad Value: \$41,051.64

Page 2 of 2



HENRY DiROCCO

BRITTLE HOUSEHOLD: Lois Markle, center, displays a powerful malevolence as the venomous and pain-racked Violet, who is at the middle of the dysfunctional family in "August: Osage County."

Home / Entertainment / Arts-and-theatre / Theatre

THEATER REVIEW: Globe's 'August: Osage County' an epic, hilarious thrill ride

- Story
- Discussion
- Image (2)

THEATER REVIEW: Globe's 'August: Osage County' an epic, hilarious thrill ride

By PAM KRAGEN pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times - The Californian | Posted: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 8:04 am | No Comments Posted | Print

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

- 0 tweet

- [Recommend](#) [Send](#) Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



[Buy this photo](#) Henry DiRocco The cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County, directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe May 7 - June 12, 2011. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

- 
- 

As the chorus of locusts roars ever-closer in Tracy Letts' riveting "August: Osage County," the nocturnal sabotage begins.

Easily the best American play of the last decade, Letts' edge-of-your-seat tragicomedy of family dysfunction thrills in its San Diego premiere at the Old Globe Theatre.

Letts is the master of dark, unsettling comedies, and the Globe production ups the queasy ante with director Sam Gold, who knows a thing or two about making audiences squirm. This epic train wreck of human foibles ---- which majestically unspools in a mammoth three-story home set on Oklahoma's central plains ---- is an engrossing mashup of black comedy, maternal cruelty, lies, secrets, life and death, laughs and tears, curse words and poetry.

Set in the dot-on-the-map town of Pawhuska, Okla., "August: Osage County" depicts a sweltering month in the lives of the troubled Weston family. Patriarch Beverly Weston, a retired poet/professor, tells Johnna, his newly hired Cheyenne Indian housekeeper, simply: "My wife takes pills and I drink ... that's the bargain we've struck." Then he wanders mysteriously out into the night, reciting lines from T.S. Eliot's "Hollow Men," a rumination on death and the hope for salvation that fittingly opens and

closes the three-hour, 30-minute play.

Beverly's warning to Johnna, it's quickly clear, is a gross understatement. His wife, Violet, is a pill-popping, cancer-ravaged, hallucinating, power-hungry monster who rambles around their cluttered house, sucking cigarettes, rambling incoherently and cruelly taunting any poor soul who comes within ear's reach of her vile tongue. Violet's got a captive audience when her extended family arrives at the hellfire-hot house to sit vigil for news on Beverly, and she gleefully relishes picking them off, one by one, like helpless fish in a barrel.

In "King Lear"-like fashion, the Westons have three adult daughters: Colorado college professor Barbara, who arrives with her estranged husband Bill and 14-year-old pot-smoking daughter, Jean; spinster middle daughter Ivy, a Pawhuska college professor who's secretly having an affair with her slow-witted cousin, Little Charles (who arrives with his parents ---- kindly Charlie Sr. and Violet's larger-than-life sister, Mattie Fae). And youngest daughter Karen, the insecure "pretty one" who flies in from Florida with her eel-like fiance, Steve, who manages mercenary security squads in the Middle East (and who quickly takes a pedophilic interest in Barbara's daughter, Jean).

Quickly, the thin veneer of affection and civility is rubbed away, as family secrets tumble out, old wounds are reopened, some pot gets smoked, a frying pan is swung in anger, and Barbara stages a drug intervention for her mom.

The Westons' troubles are modern enough, but in Letts' hands, they're Shakespearean in scale. The Westons' sad breakup serves as metaphor for the decline of American family life, the disappearance of Indian traditions, the loss of hope and the inevitability of death. Menopausal eldest daughter Barbara ---- reeling angrily from her husband Bill's affair with a much-younger woman ---- describes her alcoholic father's disappointment: "This country, this experiment, America, this hubris: what a lament," she says. "Dissipation is actually much worse than cataclysm."

One of the many poets quoted in "August: Osage County" is Oklahoma native John Berryman, an alcoholic who drowned himself in 1972. Beverly recites a few lines from Berryman's "The Curse" before he disappears ---- "By night, within that ancient house; Immense, black, damned, anonymous." It's an apt description for Gold's haunting production. The keen-eyed director has a knack for finding those awkward, uncomfortable moments in life and giving them a cringe-inducing twist, like a creepy moment when Violet, in a drug haze, begins dancing like a skeletal marionette on strings; or the way he punctuates the anti-American Indian slurs callously tossed about by the Westons. And the play's final tableau, where a new queen quietly takes control of the Weston home, is especially evocative.

Eightysomething actor Lois Markle gets the role of a lifetime in Violet, a woman who refuses to need or love anyone lest she cede power and control. Rake-thin and with bare legs and arms and a balding pate, she's eerily reminiscent of Gollum, the treacherous hobbit from the "Lord of the Rings" films. Markle's Violet (who, no surprise, has mouth cancer) is Lady Macbeth, Medea and Cruella de Ville rolled into one as she systematically steals her children's inheritance, destroys their self-esteem and then drives each one away forever ---- ultimately losing all the power she fought so hard to achieve.

The ensemble cast is spectacular. Notably fine performances are turned in by a wry Robert Foxworth, as the likable, poetry-quoting drunk, Beverly; a very realistic Robin Pearson Rose as Violet's younger sister Mattie Fae, who's sweet as sugar, but has a vicious mean streak underneath; and Guy Boyd as Mattie Fae's endearing husband, Charlie.

Also excellent are Angela Reed, who gives a high-wire performance as Barbara (who has clearly inherited her mother's controlling tendencies); and Robert Maffia, who's sleazy and oily as the slick-talking Steve. Also fine is an understated Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna, the quietly dignified Cheyenne housekeeper.

David Zinn's full-scale home set must be the largest ever built on the Globe stage, and it's gothically lit by Japhy Weideman. And Fitz Patton's sound design --- winds, rains and the slow-rising cacophony of an approaching locust swarm ---- creates a sense of almost biblical, plague-like foreboding.

"August: Osage County" is staged with two 10-minute intermissions, but the gripping play is such an E-ticket thrill ride, audiences barely leave their seats during the breaks, they cheer and shout when a character gets a comeuppance, and they leap to their feet for nightly standing ovations.

With a 13-member cast and huge physical demands, it's not a play that most theaters can afford to produce, so San Diego audiences are lucky to have the opportunity to see it at the Globe. The play has very strong language and adult themes, but it's

wickedly funny and a must-see for theater-lovers. This is a play local audiences will be talking about for many years to come.

"August: Osage County"

When: 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays; 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through June 12

Where: The Old Globe, Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego

Tickets: \$29-\$85; for mature audiences

Info: 619-234-5623

Web: theoldglobe.org

Copyright 2011 North County Times - The Californian. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Theatre on *Wednesday, May 18, 2011 8:04 am* Updated: 9:17 am.

Share This Story

Discuss Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- Streisand wedding inspired Broadway Theatre's new comedy
- Kopit debuts rare collaboration at La Jolla Playhouse
- OPERA REVIEW: Singers, staging make 'Carmen' a mixed experience
- CALIFORNIAN: Love and goodness rule in CYT's 'A Little Princess'
- Georgian mezzo feels 'Carmen' in her soul
- James Caan wants you to know he is more than just a 'tough guy'
- THEATER REVIEW: 'Life of Riley' not one of Ayckbourn's best

Sponsored Links

[Entertainment Offers](#)

Up to 90% Off the Best Stuff to do! Restaurants, Spas, Events and More
www.LivingSocial.com

[Play Games Win Prizes](#)

More info on Play Games Win Prizes. Search millions of listings.
www.BargainMatch.com

[Mortgage Rates Hit 2.99%](#)

If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for govt Refi Programs
www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
 Publication Name: NC Times-Preview Section
 Publishing Date: May 19, 2011
 Circulation: 71,847
 Page Number: 12,23
 Article Size: 120 sq inch
 Ad Value: \$2,231.19

THEATER REVIEW

Globe's 'August' an epic, hilarious thrill ride

By PAM KRAGEN

pkragen@ncimes.com

As the chorus of locusts roars ever-closer in Tracy Letts' riveting "August: Osage County," the nocturnal sabotage begins.

Easily the best American play of the past decade, Letts' edge-of-your-seat tragicomedy of family dysfunction thrills in its San Diego premiere at the Old Globe Theatre.

Letts is the master of dark, unsettling comedies, and the Globe production ups the queasy ante with director Sam Gold, who knows a thing or two about making audiences squirm. This epic train wreck of human foibles — which majestically unspools in a mammoth three-story home set on Oklahoma's central plains — is an engrossing mashup of black comedy, maternal cruelty, lies, secrets, life and death, laughs and tears, curse words and poetry.

Set in the dot-on-the-map town of Pawhuska, Okla., the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play depicts a sweltering month in the lives of the troubled Weston family. Patriarch Beverly Weston, a retired poet/professor, tells Johnna, his newly hired Cheyenne Indian housekeeper, simply: "My wife takes pills and I drink ... that's the bargain we've struck." Then he wanders mysteriously out into the night, reciting lines from T.S. Eliot's "Hollow Men," a rumination on death and the hope for salvation that fittingly opens and closes the three-hour, 30-minute play.

Beverly's warning to Johnna, it's quickly clear, is a gross understatement. His wife, Violet, is a pill-popping, cancer-ravaged, hallucinating, power-hungry monster who rambles around their cluttered house, sucking cigarettes, rambling incoherently and cruelly taunting any poor soul who comes within ear's reach of her vile



Action takes place in multiple rooms of a three-story home set in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco

tongue. Violet's got a captive audience when her extended family arrives at the hellfire-hot house to sit vigil for news on Beverly, and she gleefully relishes picking them off, one by one, like helpless fish in a barrel.

In "King Lear"-like fashion, the Westons have three adult daughters: Colorado college professor Barbara, who arrives with her estranged husband Bill and 14-year-old pot-smoking daughter, Jean; spinster middle daughter Ivy, a Pawhuska college professor who's secretly having an affair with her slow-witted cousin, Little Charles (who arrives with his parents — kindly Charlie Sr. and Violet's larger-than-life sister, Mattie Fae). And youngest daughter Karen, the insecure "pretty one" who flies in from Florida with her eel-like fiancé, Steve, who manages mercenary security squads in the Middle East (and who quickly takes



The Weston family grapples with matriarch Violet for her bottle of pills.

a pedophilic interest in Barbara's daughter, Jean).

Quickly, the thin veneer of affection and civility is rubbed away, as family secrets tumble out, old wounds are reopened, some pot gets smoked, a frying pan

is swung in anger, and Barbara stages a drug intervention for her mom.

The Westons' troubles are modern enough, but in Letts' hands, they're Shakespearean in scale. The Westons' sad breakup serves as

metaphor for the decline of American family life, the disappearance of Indian traditions, the loss of hope and the inevitability of death. Menopausal eldest daughter Barbara — reeling angrily from her husband Bill's affair with

"August: Osage County"

WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays

WHERE: The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego

TICKETS: \$29-\$85 (for mature audiences)

INFO: 619-234-5623
www.theoldglobe.org

a much-younger woman — describes her alcoholic father's disappointment: "This country, this experiment, America, this hubris: what a lament," she says. "Dissipation is actually much worse than cataclysm."

One of the many poets quoted in "August: Osage County" is Oklahoma native John Berryman, an alcoholic who drowned himself in 1972. Beverly recites a few lines from Berryman's "The Curse" before he disappears — "By night, within that ancient house; Immense, black, damned, anonymous." It's an apt description for Gold's haunting production. The keen-eyed director has a knack for finding those awkward, uncomfortable moments in life and giving them a cringe-inducing twist, like a creepy moment when Violet, in a drug haze, begins dancing like a skeletal marionette on strings; or the way he punctuates the anti-American Indian slurs callously tossed about by the Westons. And the play's final tableau, where a new queen quietly takes control of the Weston home, is especially evocative.

Eightysomething actor Lois Markle gets the role of a lifetime in Violet, a woman who refuses to need or love anyone lest she cede power and control. Rake-thin and with bare legs and arms and

See 'August,' 23

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: NC Times-Preview Section
Publishing Date: May 19, 2011
Circulation: 71,847
Page Number: 12,23
Article Size: 120 sq inch
Ad Value: \$2,231.19

'August'

Continued from Page 12

a balding pate, she's eerily reminiscent of Gollum, the treacherous hobbit from the "Lord of the Rings" films.

Markle's Violet (who, no surprise, has cancer of the mouth) is Lady Macbeth, Medea and Cruella de Ville rolled into one as she systematically steals her children's inheritance, destroys their self-esteem and then drives each one away forever — ultimately losing all the power she fought so hard to achieve.

The ensemble cast is spectacular.

Notably fine performances are turned in by a wry Robert Foxworth, as the likable, poetry-quoting drunk, Beverly; a very realistic Robin Pearson Rose as Violet's younger sister Mattie Fae, who's sweet as sugar, but has a vicious mean streak underneath; and Guy Boyd as Mattie Fae's endearing husband, Charlie.

Also excellent are Angela Reed, who gives a high-wire performance as Barbara (who has clearly inherited her mother's controlling tendencies); and Robert Maffia, who's sleazy and oily as the slick-talking Steve. Also fine is an understated Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna, the quietly dignified Cheyenne housekeeper.

David Zinn's full-scale home set must be the largest



Lois Markle as Violet Weston, Robert Foxworth as Beverly Weston and Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna Monevata in "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe.

Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco

ever built on the Globe stage, and it's gothically lit by Japhy Weideman. And Fitz Patton's evocative sound design — winds, rains and the slow-rising cacophony of an approaching locust swarm — creates a sense of almost biblical, plague-like foreboding.

"August: Osage County" is staged with two 10-minute intermissions, but the gripping play is such an E-ticket thrill ride, audiences barely leave their seats during the breaks, they cheer and shout when a character gets a

comeuppance, and they leap to their feet for nightly standing ovations.

With a 13-member cast and huge physical demands, it's not a play that most theaters can afford to produce, so San Diego audiences are lucky to have the opportunity to see it at the Globe.

The play has very strong language and adult themes, but it's wickedly funny and a must-see for theater-lovers. This is a play local audiences will be talking about for many years to come.

STORIES BALBOA PARK | THEATER REVIEWS

Tracy Letts's August: Osage County at the Old Globe

By Jeff Smith | Published Wednesday, May 18, 2011

TEXT SIZE: [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)
 SUBSCRIBE TO THIS COLUMN
[SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [...](#)



Tracy Letts's *August: Osage County* turns Chekhov's *Three Sisters* inside out.

In the dead of summer, temperatures in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, reach triple digits, with the humidity not far behind. The town, 60 miles north of Tulsa, near the Kansas border, lies along Tornado Alley. But in the summer no air circulates.

The title of Tracy Letts's Pulitzer Prize-winning *August: Osage County* calls immediate attention to the weather. A first glimpse at the set for the Old Globe's production raises the thermometer even more. Beverly and Violet Weston live in a 100-year-old, three-story manse. The set takes up almost the entire stage. Books, journals, newspapers, and household stuff lie scattered about, as if a mini-tornado harrowed the place and the Westons have yet to spruce things up.

That might be true except for the windows. Duct tape seals each with black shades. This isn't a home, it's a hothouse. "My wife is cold-blooded," Beverly tells a prospective housekeeper, "and not just in the metaphorical sense. She does not believe in air-conditioning."

Beverly's a poet. Or was. He wrote *Meadowlark* in the 1960s (when they still "published poetry in hardback"). He won prestigious awards and a teaching position. Now he worships a "higher power," he says, raising a half-full — or, more likely, half-empty — bottle of whiskey. And Violet? Her first words are a jumble that sounds like "son of a bitch," though she's ingested so many pills your guess is as good as Beverly's. So, he drinks and she takes pills. This explains, he says, why "the maintenance of traditional American routine" has become so "burdensome."

August: Osage County is one of the finest American plays in a long time. Given Letts's previous efforts — the thrillers *Bug* and *Killer Joe* — it came as a surprise when it premiered at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre in 2007. It's a three-act epic about a nuked nuclear family.

It was also a surprise that the Old Globe Theatre, which has tended toward much milder fare of late — *Boeing, Boeing*, anyone? — would stage such a theatrical blast furnace. Credit to the Globe for bringing *Osage* to San Diego, and credit to director Sam Gold and a remarkable cast not only for one of the most polished opening nights in memory but also for packing the house with the quirky flow of life.

It's hard to know how to behave at a funeral. There are no rehearsals. Emotions brim and sometimes spew or become swallowed in ungainly lumps. For the Westons, even before Beverly stopped musing about suicidal American poets and disappeared, family life always resembled a funeral. His absence intensified the dynamic.

Two of his three daughters have stayed away for years: Barbara in Colorado with philandering husband Bill and dope-taking daughter Jean; Karen in Florida, where she may have found true love. Dutiful Ivy has remained at home. The three sisters — which turn Chekhov's *Three Sisters* inside out — haven't kept in touch.

In the name of love, Violet has ruled this roost. Her family knows that, depending on her mood and on how much air she allows for others, they must either stifle emotions or risk stifling wrath.

Chain-smoking (even though she has cancer of the mouth), at times pacing the floor in a skinny slip, Lois Markle makes Violet unforgettable. There is no actor here. Instead she's an unleashed force who delights in lambasting her daughters with the truth. She's a casebook study in psychological abuse. But — and here's the amazing part — Markle (and Letts) also make her human. She has untold reasons why pills won't squelch her suffering. She's known all family secrets — many of the bombshell variety — and has had to keep them quiet for decades.

Daughter Barbara has an overall explanation. Northern Oklahoma isn't the Midwest, she says. "This is the Plains, a state of mind...some spiritual affliction, like the blues." Barbara contends that the affliction has spread nationally, but with an unheard whimper, not a bang. "Dissipation," she says, "is actually much worse than cataclysm."

Since the ensemble cast is so uniformly excellent, it's almost unfair to single out individuals. That said, Angela Reed's Barbara is a marvel. She morphs almost literally into Violet before our eyes. As Barbara grabs control, her voice becomes more and more serrated, like her mother's "cancer mouth."

San Diego got a glimpse of Letts's theatrical style when the Rep staged *Superior Donuts*, which jumped from cross-eyed farce to high drama in a jiff. *Osage* not only fills seven rooms and a porch with exposed nerves, it also generates enough laughs to qualify as a comedy. As when Barbara argues that we have a responsibility to something greater than ourselves, and disillusioned Ivy replies, "good luck with that."

Robert Foxworth has had the good fortune to perform in both *Osage* and *Superior Donuts* locally. In *Osage*, he only appears in the prologue, but it takes someone of Foxworth's stature to make Beverly become, in many ways, the play's most complex being.

Chekhov's three sisters never reach Moscow. For Lett's trio, "Moscow" could be Denver, New York, and Miami. But given how the play bombards illusions, it's probably best to say to each, "good luck with that." ■

August: Osage County, by Tracy Letts.

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park.

Directed by Sam Gold; cast: Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Kimberly Guerrero, Robin Pearson Rose, Carla Harting, Guy Boyd, Angela Reed, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Todd Cerveris, Kelly McAndrew, Robert Maffia, Haynes Thigpen; scenic design, David Zinn; costumes, Clint Ramos; lighting, Japhy Weideman; sound, Fitz Patton.

Playing through June 12; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623.

[MORE JEFF SMITH](#) | [MORE BALBOA PARK](#) | [MORE THEATER REVIEWS](#)
[SEND LETTER TO THE EDITOR](#) | [SEND TO A FRIEND](#)
[SUBSCRIBE TO THIS COLUMN](#) | [PRINTER FRIENDLY](#)





brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publishing Date: May 19, 2011
Circulation: 175,000
Page Number: 101,102
Article Size: 68 sq inch
Ad Value: \$3,472.06

Page 1 of 2

Good Luck with That

"This is the Plains, a state of mind...some spiritual affliction, like the blues."

In the dead of summer, temperatures in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, reach triple digits, with the humidity not far behind. The town, 60 miles north of Tulsa, near the Kansas border, lies along Tornado Alley. But in the summer no air circulates.

The title of Tracy Letts's Pulitzer Prize-winning *August: Osage County* calls immediate attention to the weather. A first glimpse at the set for the Old Globe's production raises the thermometer even more. Beverly and Violet Weston live in a 100-year-old, three-story manse. The set takes up almost the entire stage. Books, journals, newspapers, and household stuff lie scattered about, as if a mini-tornado harrowed the place and the Westons have yet to spruce things up.

That might be true except for the windows. Duct tape seals each with black shades. This isn't a home, it's a hothouse. "My wife is cold-blooded," Beverly tells a prospective housekeeper, "and not just in the metaphorical sense. She does not believe in air-conditioning."

Beverly's a poet. Or was. He wrote *Meadowlark* in the 1960s (when they still "published poetry in hardback"). He won prestigious awards and a teaching position. Now he worships a

"higher power," he says, raising a half-full — or, more likely, half-empty — bottle of whiskey. And Violet? Her first words are a jumble that sounds like "son of a bitch," though she's ingested so many pills your guess is as good as Beverly's. So,

he drinks and she takes pills. This explains, he says, why "the maintenance of traditional American routine" has become so "burdensome."

August: Osage County is one of the finest American plays in a long time. Given Letts's previous efforts — the thrillers *Bug* and *Killer Joe* — it came as a surprise when it premiered at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre in 2007. It's a three-act epic about a nuked nuclear family.

It was also a surprise that the Old Globe Theatre, which has tended toward much milder fare of late — *Boeing, Boeing*, anyone? — would stage such a theatrical blast furnace. Credit to the Globe for bringing *Osage* to San Diego, and credit to director Sam Gold and a remarkable cast not only for one of the most polished opening nights in memory but also for packing the house with the quirky flow of life.

It's hard to know how to behave at a funeral. There are no rehearsals. Emotions brim and sometimes spew or become swallowed in ungainly lumps. For the Westons, even before Beverly stopped musing about suicidal American poets and disappeared, family life always resembled a funeral. His absence intensified the dynamic.

Two of his three daughters have stayed away for years: Barbara in Colorado with philandering husband Bill and dope-taking daughter Jean; Karen in Florida, where she may have found true love. Dutiful Ivy has remained at home. The three sisters — which turn Chekhov's *Three Sisters* inside out — haven't kept in touch.

In the name of love, Violet has ruled this roost. Her family knows that, depending on her mood and on how much air she allows for others, they

THEATER REVIEW

JEFF SMITH

August: Osage County, by Tracy Letts.

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park.

Directed by Sam Gold; cast: Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Kimberly Guerrero, Robin Pearson Rose, Carla Harting, Guy Boyd, Angela Reed, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Todd Cerveris, Kelly McAndrew, Robert Maffia, Haynes Thigpen; scenic design, David Zinn; costumes, Clint Ramos; lighting, Japhy Weideman; sound, Fitz Patton.
Playing through June 12; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623.

The above material first appeared in the San Diego Reader on the above date.

All copyrights are reserved and no further reproduction is allowed without permission of the San Diego Reader.



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name:	Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name:	San Diego Reader
Publishing Date:	May 19, 2011
Circulation:	175,000
Page Number:	101,102
Article Size:	68 sq inch
Ad Value:	\$3,472.06

Page 2 of 2

must either stifle emotions or risk stifling wrath.

Chain-smoking (even though she has cancer of the mouth), at times pacing the floor in a skinny slip, Lois Markle makes Violet unforgettable. There is no actor here. Instead she's an unleashed force who delights in lambasting her daughters with the truth. She's a casebook study in psychological abuse. But — and here's the amazing part — Markle (and Letts) also make her human. She has untold reasons why pills won't squelch her suffering. She's known all family secrets — many of the bomb-shell variety — and has had to keep them quiet for decades.

Daughter Barbara has an overall explanation. Northern Oklahoma isn't the Midwest, she says. "This is the Plains, a state of mind...some spiritual affliction, like the blues." Barbara contends that the affliction has spread nationally, but with an unheard whimper, not a bang. "Dissipation," she says, "is actually much worse than cataclysm."

Since the ensemble cast is so uniformly excellent, it's

almost unfair to single out individuals. That said, Angela Reed's Barbara is a marvel. She morphs almost literally into Violet before our eyes. As Barbara grabs control, her voice becomes more and more serrated, like her mother's "cancer mouth."

San Diego got a glimpse of Letts's theatrical style when the Rep staged *Superior Donuts*, which jumped from cross-eyed farce to high drama in a jiff. *Osage* not only fills seven rooms and a porch with exposed nerves, it also generates enough laughs to qualify as a comedy. As when Barbara argues that we have a responsibility to something greater than ourselves, and disillusioned Ivy replies, "good luck with that."

Robert Foxworth has had the good fortune to perform in both *Osage* and *Superior Donuts* locally. In *Osage*, he only appears in the prologue, but it takes someone of Foxworth's stature to make Beverly become, in many ways, the play's most complex being.

Chekhov's three sisters never reach Moscow. For Lett's trio, "Moscow" could be Den-



Tracy Letts's August: *Osage County* turns Chekhov's *Three Sisters* inside out.

The above material first appeared in the San Diego Reader on the above date.

All copyrights are reserved and no further reproduction is allowed without permission of the San Diego Reader.

[Login](#) | [Register](#) | [RSS](#) | [Contests](#) | [Red List](#) | [Find a Paper](#) | [Archives](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) |



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Blogs](#) [Music](#) [Arts](#) [Events](#) [Eats](#) [Special Issues](#) [More](#)



[Home](#) / [Articles](#) / [Arts](#) / [Theater](#) / **Secrets and lies**

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Secrets and lies

The Old Globe Theatre's very good August: *Osage County* and the rest of this week's theater listings

By [Martin Jones Westlin](#)



Barbara (Angela Reed, left) strains to reconcile with Violet Weston (Lois Merkle), her emotionally bankrupt mother. - Photo by Henry DiRocco

"Thank God we don't know the future," drones an exasperated Barbara in The Old Globe Theatre's very good *August: Osage County*. "We'd never get out of bed."

1

0

[Like](#)

[Share](#)

Bed, it turns out, is exactly where the Weston family should've stayed after the death of patriarch Beverly—but it's too late now. Bev's suicide by drowning is the flashpoint for the clan's disintegration, illustrated by

playwright Tracy Letts' murky revelations on the drug and alcohol abuse, incest, racism, pedophilia and other maladies that morph a tawdry Oklahoma clapboard house into the Westons' private hell.

The 11-member family sounds like 111 as Beverly's widow Violet (an outstanding Lois Markle) fans the flames amid the harmful side effects of her anti-cancer meds—a family meal becomes a fight to the death as the actors match one another vocal for vocal.

One wrong-headed glance will fuel a cascade of withering invective from Violet, whose terrible family life has severed heart from soul. The excellent production values are most apparent at play's end, with Violet the tragic victim of her own loathing and fear.

Letts, who won the 2008 drama Pulitzer for this, doesn't spend much time on each character's distant past, and that may kill it for those who like their exposition on the heavy side. But it's not so much what this play says as how it says it—and director Sam Gold exploits the visually stunning firestorm, spearheaded by the durable Robert Foxworth in the fleeting but pivotal role of Beverly.

The show runs through June 12 at The Globe's mainstage, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

Related content

[Hood ornaments](#)

Opening

Rounding Third: Coaches Don and Michael have very different views on their Little League team—Donald wants the kids to win, while Michael wants them to enjoy the game. Produced by Scripps Ranch Theatre, it opens May 20 at the Legler-Benbough Theatre in Scripps Ranch. \$10-\$22. scrippsranchtheatre.org

Related to:

[The Old Globe](#)

The bo-he-mian Show: Polyamory, transsexuality, love addiction, STDs and more are explored through song and personal narratives. Produced by San Diego Tantra Theater, it runs May 20 and 21 at the Tower Room, Handlery Hotel Resort in Mission Valley. \$20. tantratheater.tv

Underground Play Festival: God, compassion and forgotten lives are among the topics explored in this two-week showcase of plays by UCSD theater undergrads. Opens May 23 at the Arthur Wagner Theatre on campus. \$5. theatre.ucsd.edu

Now Playing

Cabaret: A cabaret singer, an American writer and the denizens of Berlin's Kit Kat Klub are caught up in the swirling maelstrom of a changing society on the eve of Hitler's rise to power. Produced by Cygnet Theatre Company, it runs through May 22 at the Old Town Theatre in Old Town. \$25-\$54. cygnettheatre.com

Pardon Me, Prime Minister: A wayward passel of women's clothes at Number Ten Downing Street fuels questions about the British prime minister's morals. Through May 22 at Poway Performing Arts Center in Poway. \$7-\$15. powpac.org

* **Curse of the Starving Class:** A faded family struggles for control of its farm as its members search for freedom, security and meaning. Produced by Triad Productions, it runs through May 28 at The Tenth Avenue Theatre, Downtown. \$15-\$25. seemoreplays.com For full listings, please visit "On Stage" at sdcitybeat.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION ART GALA at The Powerhouse, 1658 Coast Blvd., Del Mar. An evening of dining, entertainment and silent and live art auctions. All proceeds benefit the Surfrider Foundation. From 6 to 10 p.m. **Thursday, May 19.** \$75. 858-792-9940, artgala.blogspot.com

RACE LEGAL at Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road, Mission Valley. Watch or participate in car races in a controlled racing environment. At 5:30 p.m. **Friday, May 20.** \$8 spectators, \$30 racers. Call 619-265-8159 to register.

***MINGEL FUSION** at Mingel International Museum, Balboa Park. Check out music, dance, costumes, food and drink from around the world. An after-party will follow in the Fusion Club. From 6 to 9 p.m. **Friday, May 20.** \$100 for the full event, \$20 for the after-party only. 619-239-0003, mingel.org

***ARCHIVE PROJECT GALA** at Sunset Temple, 3911 Kansas St., North Park. The archiVe project, a nonprofit that collects and shares stories of people living with HIV and AIDS, hosts a gala featuring an art display, a silent auction live music, beer, wine and appetizers. At 9 p.m. **Friday, May 20.** \$25. 619-795-3630, thearchiveproject.org

***BIKE TO WORK DAY** Ditch your car for a day and hop on your bike. SANDAG will have pit stops all over the County with free drinks, snacks and encouragement. **Friday, May 20.** 619-795-3630, 511sd.com/Commute

LEAVING A LEGACY at OPT Underground Gallery, 918 Mission Ave., 1st Floor, Oceanside. Emcees, producers, beatmakers and freestylers are invited to a photography and music show to collaborate, freestyle and network. From 8 p.m. to midnight **Friday, May 20.** \$10, email loqui@bilateralassembly.com. bilateralassembly.com

STARLETTES VS. DIVAS at Skateworld, 6907 Linda Vista Rd., Linda Vista. San Diego Roller Derby's Starlettes make their season debut against the Inland Empire Derby Divas. At 5:30 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** \$12. 6196309496, sandiegorollerderby.com

MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL at Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center, 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad. See a bird calling show, take a birding walk with a wildlife biologist and more. Kid's can make bird-related crafts, too. From 1 to 3 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** 760-804-1969, aguahedionda.org

RUMMAGE SALE at Pepsi Bottling Group, 7995 Armour St., Kearny Mesa. Outreach 4 Humanity, a local nonprofit, hosts a community garage sale, with proceeds benefiting the Foundation for Women. From 6 a.m. to noon **Saturday, May 21.** 858-444-3781, outreach4humanity.org

***SCI-FI RADIO & FILM LABORATORY** at Geisel Library, UCSD, La Jolla. Scott Paulson hosts an impromptu sound laboratory where you can conduct your own experiments with Moog synthesizers, Theremins and other unusual instruments. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** 858-534-2230, ucsd.edu

***BIKE THE BOULEVARD** at Til-Two Club, 4746 El Cajon Blvd., City Heights.

THEATRE

CHECK THIS OUT

Secrets and lies: "Thank God we don't know the future," drones an exasperated Barbara in The Old Globe Theatre's very good *August: Osage County*. "We'd never get out of bed." Bed, it turns out, is exactly where the Weston family should've stayed after the death of patriarch Beverly—but it's too late now. Bev's suicide by drowning is the flashpoint for the clan's disintegration, illustrated by playwright Tracy Letts' murky revelations on the drug and alcohol abuse, incest, racism, pedophilia and other maladies that morph a tawdry Oklahoma clapboard house into the Westons' private hell.

The 11-member family sounds like 111 as Beverly's widow Violet (an outstanding Lois Markle) fans the flames amid the harmful side effects of her anti-cancer meds—a family meal becomes a fight to the death as the actors match one another vocal for vocal. One wrong-headed glance will fuel a cascade of withering invective from Violet, whose terrible family life has severed heart from soul. The excellent production values are most apparent



HENRY DIROCCO

August: Osage County

at play's end, with Violet the tragic victim of her own loathing and fear.

Letts, who won the 2008 drama Pulitzer for this, doesn't spend much time on each character's distant past, and that may kill it for those who like their exposition on the heavy side. But it's not so much what this play says as how it says it—and director Sam Gold exploits the visually stunning firestorm, spearheaded by the durable Robert Foxworth in the fleet-

ing but pivotal role of Beverly.

The show runs through June 12 at The Globe's mainstage, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

—Martin Jones Westlin

OPENING

Rounding Third: Coaches Don and Michael have very different views on their Little League team—Donald wants the kids to win, while Michael wants them to enjoy the game. Produced by Scripps Ranch Theatre, it opens May 20 at the Legler-Benbough Theatre in Scripps Ranch. \$10-\$22. scrippsranchtheatre.org

The bo-he-mian Show: Polyamory, transsexuality, love addiction, STDs and more are explored through song and personal narratives. Produced by San Diego Tantra Theater, it runs May 20 and 21 at the Tower Room, Handlery Hotel Resort in Mission Valley. \$20. tantratheater.tv

Underground Play Festival: God, compassion and forgotten lives are among the topics explored in this two-week showcase of plays by UCSD theater undergrads. Opens May 23 at the Arthur Wagner Theatre on cam-

Hop on your bike and start off the ride at the Til Two Club with a kick-off party and BBQ. Then bike up and down El Cajon Boulevard, stopping at hip spots like Bedouin Vintage Collective for an art show and the Lafayette Hotel for pool-side cocktails. At noon **Saturday, May 21.** tiltwoclub.com

***CROSSWORDS OF THE WEST GUN SHOW** at Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Need a gun? Go here from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday, May 21,** and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 22.** \$12. 858-755-1161, crosswordsgunshows.com

***SAN DIEGO DERBY DOLLS** at Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. San Diego Derby Dolls The Swarm take on The Diego Rollers. At 6 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** \$15. 858-755-1161, derbydolls.com/sd

RIDICULOUS OBSTACLE CHALLENGE at Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. This obstacle race combines the challenges of a military obstacle course with competitive game shows like Wipeout, Double Dare and more. Start times at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** \$60. 858-755-1161, rocrace.com

SIGHT & SOUND at Queen Bee's, 3925 Ohio St., North Park. The art-and-music event includes live music by Republic of Letters, Kevin Martin of Get Back Loretta and Todo Mundo, performances by mem-

bers of Roar Theatre, Destructo Bunny and Prosperity Dance Company and a group art show. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. **Saturday, May 21.** \$10-\$12. jbcollections.com

WILD IN THE COUNTRY at Lions, Tigers & Bears, 24402 Martin Way, Alpine. San Diego's only big cat sanctuary, hosts their annual fundraiser. Enjoy food from Phil's BBQ, music by Haute Chile, a silent and live auction and more. From 2 to 6 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** \$95 adults, \$25 for kids. 619-659-8078, lionstigersandbears.org

1ST ANNUAL UCSD POWWOW at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. The university hosts a Native American powwow. From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** 858-534-2230, ucsd.edu

MARITIME CELEBRATION at Port Pavilion, Broadway Pier, Downtown. Celebrate our region's Maritime industry and workers. There will be carnival rides for kids, live entertainment and exhibits. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** thebigbay.com

***SICILIAN FESTIVAL** A free, all-day festival that celebrates all things Sicilian, including music, food, a grape stomp, a beer garden, music, a parade and a pasta-eating contest. Food Network star Giada De Laurentiis will give cooking demos, too. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Sunday, May 22.** 619-993-9550, sicilianfestival.org

DIA DE LOS MUSEOS at Sherman

Heights Community Center, 2258 Island Ave., Sherman Heights. A free day for the whole family where San Diego museums come to you. Partake in hands-on activities ranging from skeleton identification to reed braiding to planting native plant seeds and more. From 1 to 3 p.m. **Sunday, May 22.** sandiegomuseumcouncil.org

***AFTERNOON "BOUQUET"** at Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. An afternoon of tea and shopping with British fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and sculptor and jewelry designer Andrew Logan. Browse scarves, dresses, purses and jewelry. From 4 to 7:30 p.m. **Wednesday, May 25.** 858-454-5872, ljathenaeum.org

TALKS & DISCUSSIONS

SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE at Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley. Nuvi Mehta, a violinist and host of the "Symphony Exposed" concert series will discuss the links between Shakespeare and symphonic writing. From 12:30 to 2 p.m. **Saturday, May 21.** sandiego-shakespeareociety.org

***STRANGE BONES LECTURE SERIES** at Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado, Balboa Park. Dr. Thomas J Csordas, a professor of anthropology at UCSD, discusses



BIKE TO WORK WEEK MEETS TOUR OF CALIFORNIA
EVERY NIGHT RIDE YOUR BIKE TO BLAH TO WATCH TO TOUR AT 8PM & GET 20% OFF 'TIL CLOSE.
FRIDAY, MAY 20TH BIKE TO WORK DAY
RIDE YOUR BIKE & SAVE 20% ALL DAY/NIGHT*
WE'LL ALSO BE A PIT STOP FROM 6-9AM

THIS FRIDAY LUNCH CASK GREENFLASH WEST COAST IPA
\$2 'til 2PM » \$3 'til 3PM » \$4 'til 4PM
* NO BIKE DISCOUNT ON THE CASK. IT'S CHEAP ENOUGH!

CLOSED ON MONDAY



3926 30TH STREET

Get all the weekly
La Jolla news
straight to your
inbox every
Wednesday.
Click to subscribe.



Senior Living,
with a View

The
WHITE
SANDS
of LAJOLLA

- [Home](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Reader Center](#)
- [Contact](#)
- Subscribe:
- [RSS](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Search in site...



[LA JOLLA LIGHT](#)

Enlightening La Jolla since 1913

[Weather Forecast](#)

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Community](#)
- [A&E](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Life](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Obits](#)
- [Classified](#)
- [Visitors](#)
- [Columns](#)

Let's Review: Dark humor + dysfunctional family = oddly appealing drama 'August: Osage County' at the Old Globe

By Diana Saenger

LETS REVIEW!

Is it only in America that playwrights write about and audiences laugh at family dysfunction?

In his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning drama, "August: Osage County," Tracy Letts creates a family torn apart by their father's disappearance. As they gather to figure out what to do with their drug-addicted, iron-willed mother, the situation exposes all of their own tragic flaws.

In a play that reveals characters who tackle cancer, addiction, incest and infidelity, Letts' profound dark humor lightens every throw of the dart of disorder.



Sisters of the Weston family (Angela Reed, Carla Harting, Kelly McAndrew) discuss how to deal with their drug-addicted mother in "August: Osage County." Henry DiRocco.

"My wife takes pills and I drink. That's the bargain we've struck" are words spoken by Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) in the first and only few moments he's onstage. Those words forewarn of what's to come.

When Beverly disappears and is ultimately found dead, his children return home, mainly because that's what children should do and not out of any sense of a loving bond. Barbara Fordham (Angela Reed) arrives with her husband Bill (Joseph Adam) and daughter Jean (Ronette Levenson) in tow. Barbara has already helped her mother get off an addiction to drugs once, so she's not very empathic about going down that road again. She's also dealing with a 15-year-old daughter who smokes pot and a husband who's had an affair with one of his students.

Trying to create some order in this chaos, Barbara must also listen to her sister Karen's (Kelly McAndrew) high-speed rants about how happy she is with new finance (Robert Maffia), and deal with sister Ivy (Carla Harting), who is having an affair with her cousin Charles (Haynes Thigpen).

The ensemble cast – which includes Robin Pearson Rose (Mattie Fae Aiken), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Kimberly Guerrero (Johnna Monevata) – is amazing. But it's Lois Markle ("Hedda Gabler," "True West," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Albee's Women" – at The Old Globe) as matriarch Violet Weston who gives a tour-de-force performance.

With each revelation about her own self – "I have a greater affinity with the damaged," we learn how troubled this woman truly is. And the bitter barbs she constantly throws at her girls, "you are as sexy as a cardboard box," naturally curb their concern for their cruel mother.

Applause also goes to The Globe's design team on this production. David Zinn (Scenic), Clint Ramos (Costumes), Japhy Weideman (Lighting) and Fitz Patton (Sound) have created a set that is almost a character in the play.

This is the third multi-story house for the stage the team has designed this season. And this one, a worn and weary home in the Oklahoma plains, has individual rooms where inhabitants reveal secrets of their past — or sins of their present — or those of family members. Within the walls, the parallels to Greek tragedies come fully alive.



Barbara Fordham (Angela Reed) and her mother (Lois Markle) hash out their troubles in the Old Globe's "August: Osage County."

Patrons should note that the play contains a lot profanity and smoking. However, the thoroughly engaging cast, emotionally-charged play, and Markle's ability to turn a sauerkraut-laden accusation into a cupcake-sweet moment of laughter is a reason not to miss "August: Osage County."

If you go

What: "August: Osage County"

When: Matinees, evenings to June 12

Where: The Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85.

Contact: (619) 23-GLOBE

Website: theoldglobe.org

Related posts:

1. [Pulitzer Prize winning drama 'August: Osage County' unfolds at The Old Globe](#)
2. [Stellar cast adds to the charms of 'Flower Drum Song' revival in La Jolla](#)
3. [Mike Eagle is new chairman of the board at La Jolla Playhouse](#)
4. [Perils of romance come to the stage in new musical 'Emma' at The Old Globe in Balboa Park](#)
5. [Playhouse seeks theater troupes for its residency program](#)

Short URL: <http://www.lajollalight.com/?p=42449>

Share with a Friend:

Posted by [Staff](#) on May 26 2011. Filed under [A & E](#), [Theater](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#). You can leave a response or [trackback](#) to this entry

Comments

[Login](#)

There are no comments posted yet. [Be the first one!](#)

Post a new comment

Enter text right here!

Comment as a Guest, or login:

Name

Displayed next to your comments.

Email

Not displayed publicly.

Website (optional)

If you have a website, link to it here.

Subscribe to

Submit Comment

Although the La Jolla Light does not have any obligation to monitor this board, the La Jolla Light reserves the right at all times to check this board and to remove any information or materials that are unlawful, threatening, abusive, libelous, defamatory, obscene, vulgar, pornographic, profane, indecent or otherwise objectionable to the La Jolla Light in our sole discretion and to disclose any information necessary to satisfy the law, regulation, or government request. The La Jolla Light does not post links to sites other than official governmental websites. The La Jolla Light also reserves the right to permanently block any user who violates these terms and conditions. All threats to systems or site infrastructure shall be assumed genuine in nature and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. Submission of any comments will be considered permission to use online or in print. © Copyright 2010 MainStreet Media, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Any copying, redistribution or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the express written consent of MainStreet Media, LLC. is expressly prohibited.



[Subscribe to our email newsletter](#)

The logo for Seasons at La Jolla, featuring the word "Seasons" in a large, stylized script font, with "AT LA JOLLA" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

*The Leader in
Dementia
Related Care &
and Assisted Living*

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

6211 La Jolla Hermosa Ave.
La Jolla, California
(858) 456-8619

A photograph of the Seasons at La Jolla building, a modern, single-story structure with a large arched entrance and a blue awning.

La Jolla Community Calendar

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: La Jolla Light
Publishing Date: May 26, 2011
Circulation: 14,822
Page Number: 9
Article Size: 54 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,291.91

Dark humor + dysfunctional family = oddly appealing 'August: Osage County'



Let's Review

BY DIANA SAENGER

Is it only in America that playwrights write about and audiences laugh at family dysfunction?

In his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning drama, "August: Osage County," Tracy Letts creates a family torn apart by their father's disappearance. As they gather to figure out what to do with their drug-addicted, iron-willed mother, the situation exposes all of their own tragic flaws.

In a play that reveals characters who tackle cancer, addiction, incest and infidelity, Letts' profound dark

If you go

- **What:** 'August: Osage County'
- **When:** Matinees, evenings to June 12
- **Where:** The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
- **Tickets:** \$29-\$85
- **Contact:** (619) 23-GLOBE
- **Website:** TheOldGlobe.org

humor lightens every throw of the dart of disorder.

"My wife takes pills and I drink. That's the bargain we've struck" are words spoken by Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) in the first and only few moments he's onstage. Those words forewarn of what's to come.

When Beverly disappears and is ultimately found dead, his children return home, mainly because that's what children should do and not out of any sense of a loving

bond. Barbara Fordham (Angela Reed) arrives with her husband Bill (Joseph Adam) and daughter Jean (Ronette Levenson) in tow. Barbara has already helped her mother get off an addiction to drugs once, so she's not very empathic about going down that road again. She's also dealing with a 15-year-old daughter who smokes pot and a husband who's had an affair with one of his students.

Trying to create some order in this chaos, Barbara must also listen to her sister Karen's (Kelly McAndrew) high-speed rants about how happy she is with new fiancé (Robert Maffia), and deal with sister Ivy (Carla Harting), who is having an affair with her cousin Charles (Haynes Thigpen).

The ensemble cast — which includes Robin Pearson Rose (Mattie Fae Aiken), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Kimberly Guerrero (Johnna Monevata) — is



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: La Jolla Light
Publishing Date: May 26, 2011
Circulation: 14,822
Page Number: 9
Article Size: 54 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,291.91

Page 2 of 2

amazing. But it's Lois Markle ("Hedda Gabler," "True West," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Albee's Women" — at The Old Globe) as matriarch Violet Weston who gives a tour-de-force performance.

With each revelation about her own self — "I have a greater affinity with the damaged," we learn how troubled this woman truly is. And the bitter barbs she constantly throws at her girls, "you are as sexy as a cardboard box," naturally curb their concern for their cruel mother.

Applause also goes to The Globe's design team on this production. David Zinn (Scenic), Clint Ramos (Costumes), Japhy Weideman (Lighting) and Fitz Patton (Sound) have created a set that is almost a character in the play.

This is the third multi-story house for the stage the team has designed this season. And this one, a worn and weary home in the Oklahoma plains, has indi-

vidual rooms where inhabitants reveal secrets of their past — or sins of their present — or those of family members. Within the walls, the parallels to Greek tragedies come fully alive.

Patrons should note that the play contains a lot profanity and smoking. However, the thoroughly engaging cast, emotionally-charged play, and Markle's ability to turn a sauerkraut-laden accusation into a cupcake-sweet moment of laughter is a reason not to miss "August: Osage County."



Barbara Fordham (Angela Reed) and her mother (Lois Markle) hash out their troubles in The Old Globe's 'August: Osage County.'

HENRY DIROCCO

Family Feud: "Osage County" at The Old Globe is a play of epic proportions

By Donnie Matsuda



There is really nothing small about The Old Globe's production of **August: Osage County**. From a spacious and sprawling three story ranch house set to a large 13-member cast full of sharp-tongued, quick-witted, and drug-induced personalities, to an incredibly deep and dark story that unfolds over the course of three acts and three and a half hours: this play definitely takes the "go big or go home" philosophy to heart.

One of the most critically acclaimed plays of the twenty-first century, **August: Osage County** is the recipient of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and winner of the 2008

Tony Award for Best Play. It has been touted by the *New York Times* as "flat-out, no asterisks and without qualifications, the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years." Wickedly dark and fiercely funny, it tells the story of the Weston Family, headed by passive patriarch Beverly and monstrous matriarch Violet. As Beverly describes their relationship early in the play, "My wife takes pills and I drink...it's a paragraph in our marriage contract." But when Beverly goes missing and then is found dead, the entire Weston clan (including daughters Barbara, Ivy, and Karen and their families as well as Aunt Mattie Fae, Uncle Charlie and Cousin Charles) comes together for the funeral, only to be painfully broken apart. Their family feuding goes far beyond mere quibbles or slights and gets far more heated than the scorching Oklahoma sun during the month of August. As skeletons are ripped out of the closet, no topic is off limits and arguments about incest and infidelity are just the tip of the branches in the twisted and tangled Weston family tree.

Despite the play's roller coaster of heightened, raw emotion and volatile personalities, there is still an incredible amount of unexpected humor and wit. It is comedy of a sarcastic, biting nature. And every single line of it is brilliantly written and brilliantly delivered.

At the head of it all is chain-smoking, pill-popping, mean-spirited matriarch Violet Weston. As Violet, Lois Markle gives an incredibly masterful and multifaceted performance. She is equally riveting when delivering her acid tongued putdowns as she is when she slips into her disheveled and disconnected drug-induced haze. Misery loves company and there is plenty of both in the Weston Family. As eldest daughter Barbara, Angela Reed is definitely a match for her miserable mother. Run ragged from her mother's constant berating, her husband's idiotic affair with a woman less than half her age, and trying to wrangle her troubled teenage daughter, she constantly lives teetering on the brink of emotional disaster. Her cynical observation "Thank God we can't tell the future. Or we'd never get out of bed" could easily be her life's mantra.

Carla Harting as middle daughter Ivy grounds the piece with a sense of heart and even a bit of cautious optimism. And Kelly McAndrew imbues youngest daughter Karen with both a motor-mouth and a myopic-mind. In supporting roles, Robin Pearson Rose gives a hilarious turn as frumpy Aunt Mattie Fae, with a nagging personality as big and bold as her hair. And as her befuddled husband Uncle Charlie, Guy Boyd proves he is a master of playing dumb. Overseeing all the action is the fractured family's Native American housekeeper Johnna, played with grace, control, and humility by Kimberly Guerrero.

It is easy to see why Obie-award winning director Sam Gold is in such high demand these days. He moves his cast smoothly and seamlessly in and around the rooms of David Zinn's expansive and intricate dollhouse set. But more importantly, he delves deep into each character and peels back their complicated thoughts and emotions layer by layer. And when we see the entire cast together in the same scene – whether it be an explosive family argument around the funeral dinner table or a devastated family gathered around the living room as Barbara slaps Violet and exposes her pill-popping drug addiction - the energy is electric and the effect is jaw-dropping stunning.

Lighting designer Japhy Weideman and Sound designer Fitz Patton deserve special mention for their outstanding work on this production. Weideman manages to create evocative effects with the simple use of white beams of light. And Patton adds to the intensity and intrigue of the piece by inserting the crescendo of hissing insects – louder, softer, then louder again – in between scenes.

The Old Globe's **August: Osage County** is one of those rare theatrical events in which everything aligns perfectly. A stellar cast, sublime direction, a brilliant script, and first-rate production values combine in a not-to-be-missed and never-to-be-repeated tour de force. Get yourself to The Old Globe and see what is arguably the most astonishing and riveting piece of work you will ever see on a San Diego stage.

August: Osage County For more information or to purchase tickets, call (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623), e-mail tickets@TheOldGlobe.org, or visit www.theoldglobe.org.

LOGIN FORM

Username*:

Password*:

☐ Remember Me

[Log in](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Forgot your username?](#)

No Account Yet? [Create an account](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



Plan a little...Save a lot with a personalized tax strategy



Share 3

SEARCH



EMAIL US



888 4 GAY NEWS

SDGLN.com
SAN DIEGO GAY & LESBIAN NEWSEAT • SHOP • RELAX
PLAY • INDULGE • SAVE

save 51-90% off the things you love!

NEWS COMMENTARY CAUSES ENTERTAINMENT SOCIAL HEALTH, WELLNESS & SPORTS EVENTS PARTNERS EQUALITY
EVENTS ARTS & CULTURE NIGHTLIFE & DINING TRAVEL

ARTS & CULTURE

Select Language ▼

THEATER REVIEW: Why all the fuss about award-winning "August: Osage County"?

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC
May 18th, 2011

2

Share

3

Recommend

I really wanted – and expected – to like (or even love) Tracy Letts' highly touted, multiple award-winning "August: Osage County." After all, it won five Tonys and the Pulitzer Prize for 2008.

So I traveled to Los Angeles a few years ago to see it – and came home wondering what all the fuss is about.

What I saw then – and what I saw again a few days ago at The Old Globe – is an old-fashioned, three-act, three-plus-hour sitcom-cum-soap opera about a large and hugely dysfunctional family.

The dysfunctional family play isn't an American invention (blame the Greeks for that), but 20th century American playwrights have certainly made hay with the genre. Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Neil Simon and Sam Shepard are a few who have jumped on the bandwagon.

Those influences are very much apparent in Letts' sprawling entry, playing through June 12 under the direction of Sam Gold.

The Weston family is rife with drug abuse, alcoholism, child molesters, infidelity and suicide – you know, the typical American clan.

The plot grinds into motion when paterfamilias Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) hires young Native American Johnna Monevata (Kimberly Guerrero) to take care of Violet.

He then disappears, and the whole family descends to help out matriarch Violet (Lois Markle), a pill-popper extraordinaire so ticked off at life that she's chosen to spend it either incoherently strung out or gleefully spewing the most hateful, obnoxious thing that comes to mind. (OK, she suffers from mouth cancer, but that doesn't excuse such relentlessly boorish behavior.)

Violet's youngest daughter Ivy (Carla Harting) is the one with the right to complain – still single, she has stayed at the family homestead in Pawhuska, Okla., and has taken her mother's daily abuse for years.

Violet's latest campaign is to get Ivy to make herself more attractive ("You look like a lesbian," she says) and married off. Imagine her consternation when she learns that Ivy has her eye on her cousin Little Charles (Haynes Thigpen).

Arriving on the scene are Ivy's married sisters Barbara Fordham (Angela Reed) and Mattie Fae Aiken (Robin Pearson Rose) and their respective families, and single sister Karen (Kelly McAndrew), bubbling over with uncharacteristic (and to Iris, unbearable) enthusiasm about the honeymoon she and her fiancé Steve Heidebrecht (Robert Maffia) are planning.

It's a large, unwieldy cast (and I haven't even mentioned the husbands or Barbara's 14-year-old pothead Jean) in a big, dingy old three-level house, allowing several conversations (or instances of bad behavior) to go on simultaneously.

But mostly these people talk, talk, talk (and let it be said that Letts knows his way around a clever riposte). Plenty of unsavory revelations and revolting behavior are on view, but when it's all over what you're most likely to do is forget it – if you're like me, almost immediately – and never think of it again.

Letts is one of my favorite playwrights, largely because he usually writes riveting characters. "Osage" is full of quirky and/or unpleasant folks, few likable, whose fates are difficult to care about.

Despite all the awards and locally fine acting and production values, "August: Osage County" is no more than an overlong sitcom with soap opera overtones.

[ENLARGE](#)

Photo credit: Henry DiRocco

From left, Lois Markle, Robert Foxworth and Kimberly Guerrero star in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-winning play "August: Osage County."

\$43.75 for \$1
at Medical Age Man



SDGLN READER POLL

What will you be doing on Monday some have predicted will make the world?:

- ☐ Praying in church
- ☐ Going about my daily routine
- ☐ Partying like it's 1999!

VOTE

The details

“August: Osage County” plays through June 12 at the Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Tuesday through Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 1 and 7 p.m.

For tickets call (619) 234-5623 or visit [HERE](#).

i>To read more reviews by SDGLN Theater Critic Jean Lowerison, click [HERE](#).

Tags: [August: Osage County](#) [Jean Lowerison](#) [Old Globe](#) [Theater review](#) [Tracy Letts](#)

2


SHARE

3

Recommend

DIGG THIS

PRINT THIS ARTICLE



Add a comment...


Comment using...



Jenni Prisk · San Diego, California

Haven't seen it yet, but your review is very honest, thanks!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Subscribe](#) · 5 hours ago

 Facebook social plugin

VISIT OUR MEDIA PARTNERS





One Tiny Needle, One HUGE Difference!

619.663.4325

[Read our story on sdgln.com!](#)



First Session Only \$50

ADVERTISE WITH [MORE INFORMATION](#)

SAN DIEGO GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

[About Us](#)

[Contributors](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Feed](#)

Username: *

Password: *

LOGIN

NEWS

Kyle Tribble, beloved member of San Diego... 05.18.2011

Tegan and Sara Singer calls out rapper... 05.18.2011

BREAKING NEWS: Margaret Cho to perform at... 05.17.2011

Toni Atkins bill passes California Assembly 05.17.2011

Secretary Hillary Clinton marks... 05.17.2011

Film, gala on May 20 will benefit new HIV... 05.17.2011

COMMENTARY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: “Congressman Hunter... 05.18.2011

COMMENTARY: Some “highlights” of... 05.18.2011

COMMENTARY: The shame of Arnold... 05.17.2011

COMMENTARY: A condom in a pill jar? What... 05.16.2011

COMMENTARY: Andrew Shirvell, who hounded... 05.13.2011

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY: Taking issue with... 05.12.2011

CAUSES

ENTERTAINMENT

VIDEO: GLAAD's What to Watch... 05.18.2011

Get Going with VIDEOS: Your handy guide to...

Calling all foodies! Weekend food truck... 05.1

THEATER REVIEW: Why all the fuss about... (

VIDEO: Semi Precious Weapons to headline...

THEATER REVIEW: Triad does justice to San

HEALTH, WELLNESS & SPORTS

In the Raw: Rebuilding trust after you... 05.18.:

VIDEO: Villanova athlete Will Sheridan... 05.17

Boot-ique: What is the best workout for... 05.1

VIDEOS: Phoenix Suns boss Rick Welts... 05.1

VIDEO: Backlash against Avery's... 05.13.2011

SDAFFL Week Nine: New Players of the Weel

SOCIAL

EAT ★ SHOP

RELAX ★ PL

INDULGE ★



Get Your Favorite Thing



START SAVING NOW

[Stage and Cinema - Theater Reviews \(New York, Broadway and Off Broadway; Los Angeles and other cities\), Movie Reviews, and Theater/Film Interviews](#)

Theater Review: AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (San Diego)

by [Tony Frankel](#) on May 18, 2011

in [Regional Theater](#)



HOT AUGUST PLAY NEEDS EVEN MORE HEAT

It was impossible not to have any expectations prior to The Old Globe's production of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize and Tony© Award-winning three-act black comedy, *August: Osage County*. When a surreal amount of hype is bestowed on a new work, especially one where critics praise the playwright as the Eugene O'Neill of the 21st Century, a reviewer (who has yet to see the original or the dozens of recent regional productions) can only pray that this is so. While Letts' monumental work about a dysfunctional (to put it mildly) Oklahoman family is titillating, shocking, fun, poetic, and well worth a visit, *August* appears to be a perfect mimicry of O'Neill rather than a fresh new voice in the American Theatre. This by no means insinuates that the play does not achieve moments of astounding



theatricality – it does. It is a sprawling, rhythmical, mesmerizing piece, but it seems that Letts has somehow infused the inventions of previous Greats, such as Greek Drama (tragic flaw, reversal of fortune), Williams (the dysfunctional family that slowly reveals secrets over three acts in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*) and Chekhov (not only are there three sisters in *August*, but Letts has subsequently adapted *Three Sisters* for the stage). Even the title of the play was taken from a poem by Letts' mentor, Howard Starks. Of course, time will tell, but modern audiences and critics may be so rightfully thirsting for a playwright-as-theatrical-deliverer that they have accidentally bestowed that honor on Mr. Letts. However, as we wait for the contemporary Messiah of drama (think Tony Kushner), *August: Osage County* proves to be no slouch, and Old Globe's delicately directed and impressively designed production will most certainly please even the most discerning of theatergoers.

One of the most astounding elements is Letts' ability to craft thirteen distinct characters, most of whom are capable of delivering sneering, sarcastic ripostes; the dialogue is rich in delightful nastiness and the story is a shocking turn of events, enough to elicit "oohs" and "aahs" from the audience. The characters themselves are so believable that attendees will either relate to them or be relieved that their own family was not so crazy.



The shenanigans begin when patriarch Beverly Weston (a soft-spoken Robert Foxworth) disappears after telling his new live-in housekeeper, Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero, originator of the role), that he can no longer handle the demands of his pill-popping wife, Violet (a disturbing Lois Markle). The vanishment reunites Beverly and Violet's three daughters: the eldest, Barbara (Angela Reed), who shows up with her philandering husband Bill (Joseph Adams) and pot-smoking, vegetarian daughter Jean (Ronete Levenson); the middle sister Ivy (Carla Harting), who is having an affair with her cousin Little Charles (Haynes Thigpen); and Karen (a stoic yet hyper Kelly McAndrew), who brings her fiancée Steve (Robert Maffia), who just happens to have his eye on 14 year-old Jean. Also in tow are Violet's sister Mattie Fae (Robin Pearson Rose) and her genteel husband Charlie (Guy Boyd of the Broadway production) – it is their son who plans on taking his girlfriend/cousin Ivy to New York.



You can imagine the number of mathematical possibilities which arise as this undomesticated crew is unleashed, but it's difficult to assess why we don't walk away from this smart production thoroughly shattered, as was the result for many on Broadway. Having witnessed many Broadway hits at the beginning and end of their runs (and the touring companies they spawned), it is fair to say that magic rarely accompanies subsequent casts. There is crackling electricity that comes with an original cast in a high-profile play that, sadly, is rarely repeated in future productions. You may be overcome watching Zero Mostel in *Fiddler On The Roof*, but what a difference when Harvey Fierstein appears in a revival (I'm still contemplating the request of a refund from the touring production). In the case of *August*, the matriarch Violet comes off as harmlessly creepy when she should be jaw-droppingly frightening, and daughter Barbara's takeover of the family makes sense, but lacks urgency. In fact, all of the shocking disclosures have no more resonance than the dusty books of poetry lying about in Beverly's den.



David Zinn's tri-level set is simply breathtaking in its scope; it looks as if somebody had vivisected a life-sized decrepit dollhouse; every nook and cranny is filled with the detritus of a decaying family. Japhy Weideman's design fills the stage with just enough light and shadow, as if the hot, August sun were trying to force its way into the manse. Being that some of the lines are intentionally mumbled, Fitz Patton could have revved up the sound a bit. Sam Gold has supplied subtle direction, which may have been apt on a smaller scale, but this gigantic production needs fireworks to make the belly of the beast come alive. This is no doubt a recommended, engaging and fascinating production – would that we had left the theatre fully devastated.

tonyfrankel @ stageandcinema.com

photos by Henry DiRocco

August: Osage County

scheduled to close June 12 at time of publication

for tickets, visit <http://www.TheOldGlobe.org>



Vol. 1, No. 39 - May 19, 2011

THESE SHOWS ARE UP FOR REVIEW

Family feud

**Tracy Letts, cast rule the Weston roost
in Globe's superb *August: Osage County***

BY CHARLENE BALDRIDGE

At the beginning of Tracy Letts' *August: Osage County*, Beverly Weston's large, unhappy family gathers at his Pawtuska, Okla. home to await news of Sheriff Dean Gilbeau's search for his body. Already present are Beverly's middle daughter Ivy, unmarried at 44 and a teacher at the local college, and his addled wife Violet, the meanest woman alive, in and out of reality.

"Violet and I have a cruel covenant," once-celebrated poet Beverly tells Johnna, an "Indian woman" hired to look after the place just before Beverly's suicide by drowning. "She pops pills and I drink."

"What does she take?" Johnna asks. Beverly reels off a staggering number of prescription drugs.

The others arrive: Violet's sister Mattie Fay, a regular harridan, married to Charlie Aiken, an upholsterer and Beverly's lifelong friend. They have one son, unmercifully ridden by Mattie Fay, the unmarried "Little Charles," with whom Ivy is secretly in love. The Fordhams arrive, Beverly and Violet's eldest daughter Barbara, a college professor in Boulder; her estranged husband Bill, a teacher who's had sequential affairs with students; and their pot-smoking 14-year-old daughter Jean. Last to arrive is Karen, the youngest of Beverly and Violet's daughters, who lives in Florida and is newly engaged to the perfect man, the shady Steve Heidenbrecht, who promptly sets about seducing Jean.

The avid theatergoer is awestruck with the realization that *August: Osage County*, which received the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for drama, has not a single underdeveloped character. Second most awesome is that Sam Gold, who directs the current Old Globe Theatre entry, has cast his production well and keeps the play moving so inexorably that one is engrossed throughout the time invested. The experience is akin to reading a good novel straight through. The reader is gobsmacked by the storyteller's revelations and the richness of his characters, and then immediately picks up the book once again to search for clues, such as what did Beverly say the last time we met.

Without being overtly "literary," *August: Osage County* is a thoroughly engrossing, utterly mesmerizing work, an examination of all the petty things that make us human and a search for what



Barbara (Angela Reed, left) strains to reconcile with Violet Weston (Lois Merkle), her emotionally bankrupt mother. (Photos by Henry DiRocco)

shines. Very little shines in this darkly funny work from Letts, who is never the same twice and never disappoints with his insights and his characters. Letts nails it thoroughly.



Charlie Aiken (Guy Boyd) has been married for 38 years to Mattie Fay (Robin Pearson Rose)—and only now is his patience nearing an end.

Robert Foxworth performed as Charlie in the Tony Award-winning Broadway company of *August: Osage County*. At The Globe, where he is an associate artist, this fine actor portrays Beverly with depth of understanding and a distinctive, mumbling delivery that may cause some to run for headsets at the interval. One somehow believes that this is intentional, that we are made to listen. After all, this is Beverly's valedictory address, and we are not meant to catch all of it.

As for the rest, they are extraordinary. Lois Markle, who played in Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* at San Diego Rep in 1998, is perfect as Violet. Associate artist Robin Pearson Rose, perhaps the most dedicated and giving actor on the planet, is startling as the relentless, sharp-tongued Mattie Fay. As her

husband Charlie, Guy Boyd surprises, as he should, with his character's abiding sweetness and strength. When the three sisters settle down alone to try figure things out in act three, just prior to Violet's final bombshell, Letts provides them with astonishing text, and this trio—Carla Harting as the decent, sympathetic Ivy, Angela Reed as the steely Barbara and Kelly McAndrew as the clueless Karen—delivers the goods.

Others in the amazing and tight-knit ensemble are Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna; Joseph Adams as Bill Fordham; Ronete Levenson as Jane; Todd Cerveris as Sheriff Gilbeau; Robert Maffia as Steve; and Haynes Thigpen as Little Charles.

No one in Beverly's family received the care she or he deserved, not from him, not from Violet and certainly not from one another. Each has avoided truth-telling, each for separate, sometimes ugly reasons, but mostly for self-protection. When Violet decides to truth-tell, the truth that issues from her destroyed brain is devastating, immense, as tragic as any of the Greeks and deeply, disturbingly insightful of our human estate.

The Globe's artistic team outdoes expectations: David Zinn with his three-level craftsman home; Clint Ramos with costume design; Japhy Weideman with lighting; and Fitz Patton with sound design.

Letts and *August: Osage County* deserve every laurel heaped upon them forevermore. One might think the plot sounds grim, but it's darkly funny, and no one does darkly funny better than Letts.

This review is based on the production of May 17. August: Osage County runs through June 12 at The Old Globe Theatre mainstage, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. (619-23-GLOBE, oldglobe.org)

Culture clash

Broadway staple is in the best of hands with SDAART's smart *Flower Drum Song*

BY MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

Flower Drum Song is one of those shows that belongs with *The Music Man* and *The Fantasticks*—it offers very little in the way of intellectual challenge, relying on its simplicity of story and speech to carry it. Theater, after all, is the living library of our life stories, and not everything in the human experience is an unsolved whodunit or an adaptation of a Russian novel or a Faustian epiphany. Sometimes, the best stories (especially those involving matters of the heart) come from the most insidious of sources—those hundred-million daily miracles *Flower Drum Song* is fond of reminding us about.

That's what's so engaging about San Diego Asian American Repertory Theatre's turn at the rework of this classic musical, called *Flower Drum Song, a Musical Revival in Concert*. Like David Henry Hwang's script, the production values contain not a hint of excess, with just enough color and flair to keep us interested. The rest is up to us—with the cast's help, we take the reins in determining the

ABOUT ME

New Older Woman

San Diego, California, United States

Is a name I gave myself when I was young old. My real name is Charlene Baldrige. My writing partner is Brenda. She writes what I dare not. I am a member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and write for numerous publications regionally and nationally.

[View my complete profile](#)

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2011 (27)

▼ May (4)

August: Osage County, Rounding Third, A Dram by an...

Curse of the Starving Class, Carmen, Shostakovich'. ..

Of Monsters, Mark Morris, Riley, Dr. Dooley and Br...

Mainly Mozart, La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, Anna De...

► April (6)

► March (7)

► February (8)

► January (2)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

August: Osage County, Rounding Third, A Dram by any other name, Flower Drum Song and Raisin' the Rent



Charlene by Ken Howard

The week ending May 25

No doubt about it, last week I came up on my last nerve as well as my last brain cell. Wednesday, I arrived two days too early for my grandson's college graduation. Sunday, I waited at the wrong theater for the opening of *A Dram of Drummhicit*, wondering why even the ushers had not shown up yet. My family laughed about my eagerness and embraced me anyway; and fortunately the theater with the opening night was just steps away from the one at which I waited. No harm was done. Oh, yeah, my checkbook does not balance, and two publishers are late paying this month. At least I have a Pay Pal balance and a savings account, so the dentist will get paid, and I'm not pregnant.

My review of **August: Osage County** ran at Martin Westlin's wordsarenotenough.info last Thursday. Reviews of Scripps Ranch Theatre's *Rounding Third*, Ira Aldridge Repertory Players' *Raisin' the Rent*, and La Jolla Playhouse's *A Dram of Drummhicit* come out on Marty's site this week. I also wrote reviews of San Diego Asian American Rep's *Flower Drum Song* and *A Dram of Drummhicit* (<http://youtu.be/5x98j8BqZhE>) for *La Jolla Village News*. That's a lot of words and a lot of brain cells depleted, and yet, the dishwasher is finished, my clothes are ready to be put into the dryer, and the recliner awaits my battered body, which managed to get me everywhere I needed to go, thanks to Brenda and my other friends.

What I have for you this week are merely comments, photos, an unused lead, and Burgoo Ratings of what I've seen. The week's amazements were the range and uses of comedy and the courage of two ambitious community theaters to produce musicals.

August: Osage County

What exactly did he say the last time you saw him? It was the day he hired someone to look after the place, that "Indian woman" with the straight black hair? He loaned her a slim volume of T.S. Eliot and said, "You're welcome to read any of the books in my library." Then he ate her homemade biscuits and gravy and walked away from his life.

FOLLOWERS

[Follow](#)
with Google Friend
Connect

Followers (8)



Already a member?
[Sign in](#)



Lois Markle as Violet, Robert Foxworth as Beverly, Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna Photo: Henry DiRocco

That's the original lead for the review I wrote for Marty, who deleted it, good newspaper editor that he is. I reserve the right to use it here. After all, this is my blog and I'll be just as unconventional as I want, breaking all journalistic rules and waxing poetic if the occasion warrants.

We struggle in life to remember the last words of someone dear that simply walked away without telling us precisely what a burden life had become. The same is true of 69-year old Beverly in Tracy Letts' *August: Osage County*. He's a forgotten poet and dedicated alcoholic. As we witness the family with which he contended, come to appreciate their several idiosyncrasies and downright lunacy, and realize that Beverly is not coming back, we realize the import of playwright Tracy Letts' first scene and wish we could see it over again. As in life, attention must be paid.

The Old Globe's production of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning *August: Osage County*, deeply observed and wonderfully directed by Sam Gold, must not be missed. Robert Foxworth, who portrayed another depressed man in Letts' *Superior Donuts* earlier this year at San Diego Repertory Theatre, portrays the aching Beverly. His drug-addled wife, Violet, is played by Lois Markle, who is remembered for her startling performance as a third of Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* at the Rep in 1998.

August: Osage County continues Tuesdays-Sundays at the Old Globe, www.theoldglobe.org (619) 23-globe.

Burgoo Rating: Five

The Rest of the Pack

Scripps Ranch Theatre hits a homer with its production of *Rounding Third*, a Little League two-hander starring **John Nutten** and **Walter Murray** as coaches with two wildly divergent ideas about the purpose of youth baseball. **Robert May** directs. Fridays-Sundays through June 25, www.scrippsranchtheatre.org or (858) 578-7728

Burgoo Rating: Four

[Front Page](#)[Theater](#)[Opera](#)[Archive](#)**SEARCH REVIEWS****ARCHIVE**[March, 2011](#)[February, 2011](#)[January, 2011](#)[December, 2010](#)[November, 2010](#)[October, 2010](#)[September, 2010](#)[August, 2010](#)[July, 2010](#)[June, 2010](#)[May, 2010](#)[April, 2010](#)

Username

Password

Remember Me ☐[Forgot your
password?](#)[Forgot your
username?](#)**August: Osage County**January Riddle [Reviews](#) - [Theater](#)

Cast. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

"This madhouse is my home!" So, it is, not only for Barb, the eldest of three sisters, but also for the extended, unhappy Weston family populating the Old Globe Theatre stage for Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning opus, "August: Osage County."

The structural home, a behemoth, dark 3-story Craftsman, dominates the playhouse, casting its oppressive shadow, even indoors. Scenic designer David Zinn created the massive cutaway and its heavily worn furniture, and lighting designer Japhy Weideman added to the spectral gloom, punctuated by sound designer Fitz Patton's eerie, piercing song of the cicadas.

The despondent house on the Oklahoma prairie has witnessed a crone's share of Weston battles, betrayals, struggles and secrets, many of which become known as this three-hour family saga evolves inside its walls. But first, the alcoholic, has-been poet and current (but not for long) patriarch Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) sets the heavy tone, confessing his depression to Johnna Monevata, (Kimberly Guerrero) the passively attentive Cheyenne woman he is hiring as housekeeper and his wife's caretaker.

SPOTLIGHT**Musical
Theatre
Guild Turns
Sweet 16**[Read more...](#)**Rob
Stevens'
Merry
Month of
May in San
Diego
Theatre**

Her first disheveled appearance makes it apparent that taking care of the drug-addicted, foul-mouthed Violet (Lois Markle) will not be a traditional task. Bellowing epithets while chain-smoking, the Weston matriarch makes Martha of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" seem as tame as Carrie Heffernan in TV's "The King of Queens."

Even when her husband disappears, occasioning the gathering of the clan that colonizes the story, Vi shows no hint of the conventional grieving spouse. Nor will she be inclined to change her habitual harangues, serving instead as matriarchal bully who gets her jollies by shattering psyches and demolishing dreams.

This is a train wreck of a family, and as its track progresses, there is no turning away, perhaps because there is familiarity instead of contempt. To a role, the acting is as excellent as it is demanding. Letts' tightly constructed script and Sam Gold's precise direction generate continual tensions that capture and hold us nervously spellbound, then break with violent bursts of humor that demand more attention and increase the anxiety. We stay with the stress because we know these characters, not all at once, but in small and personal doses, for what family does not contain at least one of them?

On the periphery, only because they live a few miles away, are good ole' Uncle Charlie Aiken (Guy Boyd), mediator and hail fellow married 38 years to sassy Mattie Fae Aiken (Robin Pearson Rose), who bosses him around and snipes mercilessly at their son, a sweet but simple, Little Charles Aiken (Haynes Thigpen). At the center of the maelstrom is the sisterly trio, Barbara Fordham (Angela Reed), in the middle of a divorce from her midlife-crisis husband Bill (Joseph Adams) and a trying time as mom of a precocious teen daughter, Jean (Ronete Levenson), who is at a crossroads of her own; Ivy Weston (Carla Harting), in the middle of something forbidden; and Karen Weston (Kelly McAndrew), in the middle of what could be a disastrous engagement to Steve Heidebrecht (Robert Maffia). The middles become riddles, then endings, as the chronicle continues.

There is hope that some of these beleaguered and battle-scarred people will find some happiness. As any psychologist would know, and as every audience member anticipates, Barb is Vi's understudy, and she is competing with her mother for the lead role. Yet, Barb has found a long-lost friend in Sheriff Deon Gilbeau (Todd Cerveris), her high school prom date, who seems to like her and may be her rescue. Ivy has a secret, reciprocated love, and together they may escape the



[Read more...](#)

Hollywood's & Capitán Theatre celebrates Earth Day with DisneyNature's Motion Picture "African Cats"

[Read more...](#)

WELCOME TO SHOWMAG

Welcome to the newly redesigned Showmag.com!

We are very excited to bring you this long overdue improvement to the site's look and feel and would love to know what you think about the changes. If you have questions or

Weston web. Karen and Steve are engaged and plan to marry on New Year's Day in Belize.

These happy possibilities exist as sun-dapplings in the bleakness, popping up, quickly disappearing, then reappearing as the saga stretches on. Thanks to those little bright spots and the feisty, sarcastic, somewhat sadistic, but entirely engaging humor that bursts through every encounter, the Westons' tome is a page-turner. Lunacy in the lodge notwithstanding.

"August: Osage County" plays on the Old Globe Theatre stage in San Diego's Balboa Park through June 12. Performances: Tues-Thurs and Sun at 7 p.m.; Fri-Sat at 8 p.m.; Matinees on Sat. at 2 p.m. and Sun. at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$29-\$85, with discounts for full-time students, patrons 29 and under, seniors, and groups. Reservations: www.TheOldGlobe.org or (619) 23-GLOBE

comments, please email us at feedback@showmag.com.

We are still in the process of archiving reviews and articles from the old site. If there's a particular review from before 2010 you would like to see, email us the title and any other relevant details at feedback@showmag.com and we will move it to the front of the queue.





TRAIN WRECKS CAN BE FUN FOR SOME AND NOT FOR OTHERS

May 18, 2011 | Filed under: Jack Lyons,News,Photos | Posted by: By Jack Lyons Theatre and Film Critic



The cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County*, directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe May 7 - June 12, 2011. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

By Jack Lyons Theatre and Film Critic

If train wreck stories, theatrically speaking, are your cup of tea, then you'll love the Pulitzer Prize winning comedy/drama "*August: Osage County*" by Tracy Letts, currently on view at The Old Globe Theatre's Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage.

It may be one of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade, winning the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play, and a Pulitzer, but the sprawling saga about three generations of an Oklahoma family

that has drawn comparisons to the work of American iconic dramatists Eugene O'Neill and Tennessee Williams, delivers a mixed bag of feed to the ranch, or should I say "raunch".

Granted, it's a comedy/farce gone wild, but somehow a play featuring one of the most dysfunctional families ever to trod the boards of a theatre and hurling more than forty or fifty F-bombs at each other and the audience – with 90 percent of them thrown by the females in the cast – somehow doesn't add up to a Pulitzer Prize. A Tony Award, Yes. It is after all, an actor's play, written by an actor, and performed by a first rate cast of Globe actors. And we know how much Broadway loves to honor broad acting chops and a story that's over-the-top.

The Globe's staging under the deft and experienced eye of director Sam Gold and his cast of thirteen excellent actors are spot-on when it comes to their characterizations. Yes, it's funny in a twisted sort of way, and the cast does a superb job of showing us the Weston family of Oklahoma, warts and all. If child molestation, incest, alcoholism, infidelity, multiple betrayals, drug abuse (have I left anything out?), plus a host of other "comic traits" hold a fascination for you, by all means go. You will no doubt have a wonderful time.

I've seen the production twice. Once at the Ahmanson Theatre in LA and now at the Globe. Each time I see it, I seem to cotton-up more to the second act than the first. The story is sort of a David and Goliath thing. We can size up the main players right away. It's really a Violet (Lois Markle) vs. Barbara (Angela Reed) story, as the two women – a mother and her daughter – vie for supremacy as the Matriarch, within this flawed and dysfunctional extended family unit. There's not a "traditional or "normal" person on stage, save one – Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero). And it may be just a matter of time before she checks into a Rehab Center after being the housekeeper, briefly, for the Weston clan. As Eleanor of Aquitaine sighs in James Goldman's brilliant play "The Lion In Winter", "What family doesn't have its ups and downs", has nothing on the Weston's – just a shift in time periods, that's all.

Comparisons are usually odious at best, however, I feel that Markle as Violet, the Family matriarch, delivers a more fearless, sharper, go-for-broke harder edge to her Violet than Estelle Parsons gave in LA. When cast changes happen, the story dynamics change as well. In this case, it's for the better. Nose to nose confrontations between Reed and Markle display a very potent, and emotional on-stage chemistry with or without all those f-bombs.

The creative teams at The Globe always provide first-rate technical support. The Set Design by David Zinn is a case in point. It's enormous – three stories high – and sets the tone for the on-stage action that follows. Japhy Weideman's moody and muted lighting design complements the vision of director Gold as the characters move in and out of the story's focus. Fitz Patton's sound design works exceptionally well for action that utilizes the entire stage.

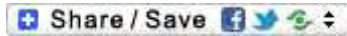


(from left) Lois Markle as Violet Weston, Robert Foxworth as Beverly Weston and Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna Monevata in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County, directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe May 7 - June 12, 2011.
Photo by Henry DiRocco.



The Old Globe production of “August: Osage County” may not be my personal favorite as a play but one cannot deny the passion and the talent of the actors who are working very hard to make it an evening in the theatre that one will remember. The play runs through June 12, 2011.

(from left) Angela Reed as Barbara Fordham, Carla Harting as Ivy Weston and Kelly McAndrew as Karen Weston in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County, directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe May 7 - June 12, 2011. Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Shortlink: <http://desertlocalnews.com/?p=1372>



Posted by By Jack Lyons Theatre and Film Critic on May 18, 2011. Filed under Jack Lyons, News, Photos. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

Become a
Model or Actor



Socialize



Go Daddy



May 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

« Apr

KSDS Jazz 88

Your Connection To The Arts In San Diego

Pat Launer's Center Stage

Funding for "Pat Launer, Center Stage", is provided by the **Elaine Lipinsky Family Foundation**.



“August: Osage County” – Old Globe Theatre

The locusts and cicadas are so loud, it's like rolling thunder. But even that racket is drowned out by the brutal backbiting of the Weston family. It's summer in Oklahoma, and tempers are peaking along with the temps.

Dad, a former poet and long-time alcoholic, sets the stage in the opening monologue, a philosophical treatise on life and his utter exhaustion with it. We never see him again – and neither does anyone in his family, which gathers to wait for news with his brain-addled, cancer-ridden, pill-popping harridan of a wife who will, over the course of a few days' time, systematically suck the soul out of each of her three daughters in turn, not to mention their mates, her sister and the Native American caretaker Violet's husband hired just before he disappeared.

Eugene O'Neill meets Sam Shepard in “August: Osage County,” one of the most celebrated plays of the past decade, winner of the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. I'm happy to say that Tracy Letts' drama lives up to expectations in a new production at the Old Globe. The piece only grows deeper and more satisfying with repeat viewings.

Sure, it's a long, epic potboiler, something of a soap opera, with its endless parade of perverse revelations: from infidelity to incest to pedophilia.

But these are no cardboard TV characters. As written by Mr. Letts, directed by theater wunderkind Sam Gold, and performed by an outstanding ensemble of 13, headed by the magnificent Lois Markle, every moment is credible, every character is a flesh-and-blood, multi-faceted, flawed, damaged and very human individual. The dialogue is terrific – raucous, raunchy and rapacious.

Horrible things are happening here, as we watch this distinctly dysfunctional family implode and self-destruct. We're both horrified and mesmerized. It's so raw and real, we feel almost guilty watching, like voyeurs or peeping Toms.

Though the play is deeply disturbing, it's also very smart and often funny. We may not like any of these people. We certainly wouldn't want any of them in our families – if we don't have already have them or their counterparts. But boy, can we feel their pain. Every super-sensitive button is pushed, every character weakness exposed and exploited. Nobody can hurt you quite as exquisitely as family – and this one's a killer.

The action unfolds in three acts, over three speedy hours, on a marvelous, massive, tri-level dollhouse of a set, brought into relief by moody lighting and evocative sound. The claustrophobic clutter reflects the suffocating constriction of the interactions.

“August: Osage” is a modern American classic. But because of its sheer scope and size, it probably won't be produced that frequently. So catch it while you can, in this superb Globe production. The intensity will unnerve you. A stifling Oklahoma summer has descended on San Diego. You may just need to chill out with a cold one after this show.

“August: Osage County” continues through June 12, at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

© 2011 Pat Launer

The Inward Eye

musings on the arts, books, politics, and Yoga by Anne Marie Welsh

A Stellar "August: Osage County" at The Old Globe

Posted on May 20, 2011 by [Anne Marie Welsh](#)

Director Sam Gold's staging of "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe closes with the quiet Native American housekeeper Johnna standing at the top of a steep staircase that leads to her attic room. Below her is cruel, cancer-ridden Violet, struggling up step by awkward step, desperately seeking human connection. For more than three hours we have watched this vicious Violet hasten the ruin of her own family. So we're pretty sure that what she's actually looking for is someone to abuse.



Johnna just stands there, not responding, patience personified. Hanging around her neck is the Cheyenne talisman she's had since birth – her own umbilical cord in a pouch "because if we lose it, our soul belongs nowhere and after we die, our souls wander around the Earth looking for where we belong." Violet, on the other hand, is already a restless ghost, alive but long soul dead, harrowing and haunting.

I sat there looking at Johnna, thinking of Dilsey in "As I Lay Dying." Faulkner's sweeping novel about the disintegration of the Compton clan closes with the help, too – the black housemaid Dilsey, her once enslaved family surviving when the Comptons don't. Surveying her employers' ruin over thirty years, Dilsey knows she and her family have "endured."

It's rare that a recent American play brings such long and literary thoughts to mind. Rarer still that such a challenging script – especially outside of London, New York or maybe Chicago where Osage originated in 2007 at Steppenwolf—gets a production as brilliant and satisfying top to bottom, beginning to end, as this one.

I've been reviewing theater since 1976, but only twice before have I experienced the minute-to-minute vibrancy and eyeball-searing truth that gripped me at the Old Globe, making time fly.

One of those other times was during the Almeida Theatre revival of Eugene O'Neill's similarly big-cast epic "The Iceman Cometh" with Kevin Spacey on Broadway. Four hours after the curtain went up on Harry Hope's saloon with its down and out regulars (played by Paul Giamatti, Tony Danza, Robert Sean Leonard among others), I was still on the edge of my seat, hanging on their every word, every pause. I could have watched those people (and that's what they seemed, real

people, not characters or actors) talk, drink, deny, reveal, then lose their pipe dreams all night long.

Ditto for Pina Bausch and the multi-talented dance actors who collaborated in creating her "1980," a bitterly funny, more than four-hour long talk-dance that played Los Angeles during the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival. The midnight hour struck and those artists could have gone on telling their dark tales all night, the ensemble itself had such vitality and the work such truth and urgency.

The ensemble vitality of the Letts-Gold production provides all those things and a gasp-inducing, chills-and-thrills good time as well. And "August: Osage County" is not that long, about three-and-a-half hours, uncut Shakespeare length.

Set in the nowhere land of Osage County, Oklahoma during the sweltering dog days of August, "Osage" unfolds as both a tragic family drama like O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night" and a pitch black dysfunctional family comedy like Sam Shepard's "Buried Child" or "A Lie of the Mind." But if Osage isn't as emotionally profound as "Journey," it does have greater political resonance and it also possesses the psychologically rounded characters missing in Shepard. It's no knock-off, or even homage.

Many of its satisfactions come from old-fashioned, melodramatic turns of plot — surprises and revelations engineered into its structure. In his blood-soaked earlier potboiler "Bug," Letts played with psychological horror, exploring the seeping contagion of a paranoiac who has infected his girlfriend. But "August: Osage County" is of another order of magnitude, the suffocating inbred viciousness of unhappy Violet spiders out through three generations and seems emblematic not only of a family but of a country that has lost its way.

Unable to love without hate and greed, the Westons' implosion took me back, though subtly, not only to Faulkner, but to the early days of the Bush-Cheney war in Iraq when the swaggering President declared, as Violet does, (Phyrric) victory among the ruins. But that's a different post.

A master of pacing and pause, telling gesture and spontaneous-seeming effects, director Gold wrings shock from every hair-pin turn of tone in Letts' script. And because the casting is pitch-perfect at the Globe, those moments feel natural, not manipulative. You sit there wondering, what can possibly be worse than that. And sure enough, something is — usually from the flame-throwing mouth of Violet, though every character gets his or her due, a shot at soul-baring self-revelation. Sometimes the densely-plotted piece feels so emotionally fraught it seems an ensemble opera, aria succeeding aria.

But there is a center to this. And actor Lois Markle (pictured above) holds it. She's beyond good as Violet, really frightening as this guilt-provoking, slash-and-burn, drug-addicted "mother." Gaunt, nearly bald from chemo, chain-smoking, slurring her words, staggering about in a flimsy nightgown, she takes no prisoners. Her proudest boast is that no one slips anything past her, including her three grown daughters who have gathered at the rambling homestead because their father, an award-winning poet whose voice was long ago silenced by drink, has gone missing. One-by-one, Violet eviscerates them — with truth, or her version of it.

Like Shakespeare's Richard III, she takes pleasure in exercising her power to destroy – and she shares that pleasure with us. She's a monster, all right, but she's also human, broken and bleakly hilarious. When she shows up conservatively dressed, wearing wig and make-up, Markle's Violet briefly evokes pity for her and her family's fall.

We meet missing husband Beverly only in a prologue during which he hires Johnna (Kimberly Guerrero) to cook and drive Violet to her doctor appointments. But he also lays it on the line. Violet takes pills; he drinks. That's their marriage contract. Beverly also ponders the lives of three modern poets he admires — John Berryman, Hart Crane and T.S. Eliot whose lines from "The Hollow Men" frame the evening.

But much as he loves Eliot's work, Beverly prefers the character of the other two who checked out of the world on their own suicidal terms. Eliot placed his problematic wife in an institution and got on with his life "brilliantined and double-breasted and Anglican." And that's the last we hear from Beverly and from the utterly convincing and sympathetic actor Robert Foxworth who plays him.

Each of his daughters has reacted differently to parental absence and dysfunction. Barbara, the oldest and now menopausal, married a college humanities professor and has a teenage girl, a smart aleck pothead. The husband Bill is with them, but only for comfort and show; he's had an affair with a student and the couple has separated. In a richly impressive performance, actor Angela Reed spirals downward and out of control as Barbara, for "home" exerts an inevitable pull. Raging at Bill and her daughter, flailing through an intervention with Violet, she's inexorably driven to become what she hates — her mother.

The plain middle sister, Ivy, age 44, stayed close to home and works at nearby college. She's not just self-effacing, but self-erasing. Yet she's embarked on a secret affair (and has hatched an escape plan) with her similarly afflicted, ineffectual cousin, Little Charlie. Letts gives even Ivy, in a wrenching turn by actor Carla Harting at the Globe, one sibling scene of searing insight and another of tragic dimension.

The youngest Karen, blond, bubbly and babbling with false optimism, arrives with an oily new fiancé who markets some shady contracting service in the Middle East. One look at this Steve (actor Rober Maffia), and you know the guy's a pervert. And that Karen's been ricocheting from man to man, self-help guru to Scientology for the ballast she never got on the primal scene back in OK.

And then there's Violet's sister Mattie Fae, blowsy, nearly-normal it seems and long married to the genial Charlie, a ray of sunlight in this Gothic hothouse. Actor Robin Pearson Rose, a Globe associate artist seen there often in depressive roles, just shines as the exuberant Mattie Fae. No point in revealing the twists we don't see coming from this live-wire character, whose meanness extends to mocking her own son. But I can say that actor Guy Boyd, as her sweetheart of a husband, twice brings lighthearted comic relief to the family dinner table until Violet takes aim once again.

All thirteen actors are excellent. To single out every one of them and all the collaborators who worked on this thoroughly unified vision of the script would only result in a repetitive litany of

superlatives. David Zinn’s atmospheric, subtly changing set does deserve mention. A book-and-clutter filled three story construction, it’s open-faced like a doll house or glass-fronted ant-farm, telling us much that we need to know about the Westons—then and now. Fitz Patton’s sound design brings a swarm of locusts ever closer during the play’s three acts, a plague upon this house.

What a play. What a production. What a community of artists. I’ll never forget it. San Diegans will be talking about it for years. Need I say, see it.

This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#) and tagged [criticism](#), [literature](#), [politics](#), [review](#), [theater](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

The Inward Eye

Proudly powered by [WordPress](#).



- **Arts/Entertainment**
 - **Artist Profile**
 - **Book Reviews**
 - **Concert**
 - **Dance**
 - **Festivals & Fairs**
 - **Movies**
 - **Music**
 - **Opera**
 - **Theater**
 - **TV**
 - **Visual Arts**
- **Columnists**
- **Communities**
 - **Balboa Park**
 - **Business**
 - **Education**
 - **Hillcrest**
 - **History**
 - **Kensington**
 - **News**
 - **Normal Heights**
 - **North Park**
 - **Real Estate**
 - **University Heights**
- **Fashion**
- **Fitness**
- **Food & Drink**
 - **Bars/Happy Hours**
 - **Restaurants**
 - **Wine**
- **Health and Fitness**
- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Home/Garden**
- **Humor**
- **International News**
- **Legal Issues**
- **LGBT Center**
- **LGBT history**
- **Local News**
- **Military**
- **National News**
- **North County**
- **Opinion**
 - **Memoriams**

- [Politicians](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [People Profiles](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Pride](#)
- [Religion/Faith](#)
- [Seniors](#)
- [Social Scene](#)
- [South Bay](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [State News](#)
- [Travel](#)

Theater Review: Violet Weston damages and bruises with the raw truth

Posted by [admin](#) on 5/21/11 • Categorized as [Arts/Entertainment](#), [Theater](#)



(from left) Angela Reed as Barbara Fordham, Carla Harting as Ivy Weston and Kelly McAndrew as Karen Weston in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County" at The Old Globe. (Courtesy Henry DiRocco)

Tracy Letts' "August: Osage County" could just as easily be called "The Weston Family: Damaged & Bruised."

"August: Osage County"

Through June 12

Old Globe Theatre

theoldglobe.org

(619) 234-5623

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 7 p.m.

Fri. 8 p.m.

Sat. 2 & 8 p.m.

Sun. 1 & 7 p.m.

By Cuauhtemoc Kish | GSD Theatre Critic

Violet Weston (Lois Markle) leads the talented cast of thirteen. She is the matriarch of the Weston family, suffering from cancer, heavily drugged on prescription medicine, and ready and willing to confront the truth about herself and the family. Markle's performance is nothing less than a tour de force; she wears pain like a proud badge of courage. She is an Olympian of brutal truths that push family members literally out the door and away from her physical and emotional reach, possibly forever. As each damaged family member walks away from her, their bruises are visible.

Not since Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" have audiences witnessed so much emotional detritus on the stage. Family patriarch Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) sets the stage of this dysfunctional family, living in Oklahoma, bearing the heat of August, in an interview with Johnna Monevata

(Kimberly Guerrero), who is interested in becoming the family's housemaid.

In the interview, Monevata allows Beverly to paint a family portrait of his spouse as a prescription drug addict and of himself as an alcoholic, both using their drug of choice to escape from one another.

In this nearly three-hour, three-act production, director Sam Gold allows visits to the multi-level Weston country home (expansively designed by David Zinn) from Beverly and Violet's three daughters Barbara (Angela Reed), Ivy (Carla Harting) and Karen (Kelly McAndrew) as well as their respective menfolk, Violet's sister and brother-in-law and pot-smoking granddaughter Jean (Ronete Levenson). Each takes a turn with Violet, and each gets pummeled, battered and bruised.

The scarring landscape includes self-pity, regret, infidelity, greed and even pedophilia. Everyone is exposed, emotionally naked, while the entire cast executes a beautifully choreographed dance, both within and outside of the house that allows for simultaneous movements and conversations, assisted with intensified sound bytes (Fitz Patton) and glaring, in-your-face lighting (Japhy Weideman) cues that reposition the actors for the next battle to be fought.

In the Weston house, there is a suffocating feeling of claustrophobia, not only because of Violet's insistence that the shutters be closed, day and night, but because there are so many secrets hovering over the family members, awaiting exposure.

McAndrew does a nice turn with self-delusion regarding her new beau, Harting attempts to hide her emotions while waiting for the right time to escape, and McAndrew juggles anger, impatience and regret with aplomb.

Steve Heidebrecht does a nice, sleazy turn as Karen's fiancé; Guy Boyd has some remarkable moments as Uncle Charlie, and Robin Pearson Rose nails Aunt Mattie's thriving insensitivity. Todd Cerveris (Sheriff) and Haynes Thigpen (Cousin Charles) and Guerrero (Native-American employee) fill in the gaps with steady, assured performances.

Having won the Tony Award for Best Play of 2008, as well as the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, "August: Osage County" comes with enough fanfare and a talented cast and crew to keep you transfixed, as if this nearly three-hour bruising saga about a dysfunctional family were nothing more than a 10-minute conversation.

Most, if not all, of the audience members will walk out of the theater, feeling less damaged and bruised than the Weston family, but glad they visited a cast who could inhabit their lives on stage.

Tool Box:

Leave a Response



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name:	Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name:	Gay San Diego
Publishing Date:	May 20, 2011
Circulation:	22,000
Page Number:	1
Article Size:	4 sq inch
Ad Value:	\$62.95

Page 1 of 1

14 THEATER



"August: Osage County"
damages and bruises.



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Gay San Diego
Publishing Date: May 20, 2011
Circulation: 22,000
Page Number: 14
Article Size: 66 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,168.82

Page 1 of 2

CUAUHTÉMOC KISH : THEATER REVIEW

Violet Weston damages and bruises with the raw truth

Tracy Letts' "August: Osage County" could just as easily be called "The Weston Family: Damaged & Bruised."

Violet Weston (Lois Markle) leads the talented cast of thirteen. She is the matriarch of the Weston family, suffering from cancer, heavily drugged on prescription medicine, and ready and willing to confront the truth about herself and the family. Markle's performance is nothing less than a tour de force; she wears pain like a proud badge of courage. She is an Olympian of brutal truths that push family members literally out the door and away from her physical and emotional reach, possibly forever. As each damaged family member walks away from her, their bruises are visible.

Not since Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" have audiences witnessed so much emotional detritus on the stage. Family patriarch Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) sets the stage of this dysfunctional family, living in Oklahoma, bearing the heat of August, in an interview with Johnna Monevata (Kimberly Guerrero), who is interested in becoming the family's housemaid.

In the interview, Monevata allows Beverly to paint a family portrait of his spouse as a prescription drug addict and of himself as an alcoholic, both using their drug of choice to escape from one another.

In this nearly three-hour, three-act production, director Sam Gold allows visits to the multi-level Weston country home (expansively designed by David Zinn) from Beverly and Violet's three daughters Barbara (Angela Reed), Ivy (Carla Harting) and Karen (Kelly McAndrew) as well as their respective menfolk, Violet's sister and brother-in-law and pot-smoking granddaughter Jean (Ronete Levenson). Each takes a turn with Violet, and each gets pummeled, battered and bruised.

The scarring landscape includes self-pity, regret, infidelity, greed and even pedophilia. Everyone is exposed, emotionally naked, while the entire cast executes a beautifully choreographed dance, both within and outside of the house that allows for simultaneous

"August: Osage County"

Through June 12

Old Globe Theatre

theoldglobe.org

(619) 234-5623

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 7 p.m.

Fri. 8 p.m.

Sat. 2 & 8 p.m.

Sun. 1 & 7 p.m.

movements and conversations, assisted with intensified sound bytes (Fitz Patton) and glaring, in-your-face lighting (Japhy Weideman) cues that reposition the actors for the next battle to be fought.

In the Weston house, there is a suffocating feeling of claustrophobia, not only because of Violet's insistence that the shutters be closed, day and night, but because there are so many secrets hovering over

brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Gay San Diego
Publishing Date: May 20, 2011
Circulation: 22,000
Page Number: 14
Article Size: 66 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,168.82

Page 2 of 2



(from left) Angela Reed as Barbara Fordham, Carla Harting as Ivy Weston and Kelly McAndrew as Karen Weston in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County" at The Old Globe.
(Courtesy Henry DiRocco)

the family members, awaiting exposure.

McAndrew does a nice turn with self-delusion regarding her new beau, Harting attempts to hide her emotions while waiting for the right time to escape, and McAndrew juggles anger, impatience and regret with aplomb.

Steve Heidebrecht does a nice, sleazy turn as Karen's fiancé; Guy Boyd has some remarkable moments as Uncle Charlie, and Robin Pearson Rose nails Aunt Mattie's thriving insensitivity. Todd Cerveris (Sheriff) and Haynes Thigpen (Cousin Charles) and Guerrero (Native-American employee) fill in the gaps with steady, assured performances.

Having won the Tony Award for Best Play of 2008, as well as the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, "August: Osage County" comes with enough fanfare and a talented cast and crew to keep you transfixed, as if this nearly three-hour bruising saga about a dysfunctional family were nothing more than a 10-minute conversation.

Most, if not all, of the audience members will walk out of the theater, feeling less damaged and bruised than the Weston family, but glad they visited a cast who could inhabit their lives on stage. ▼

- [Stay Connected](#)
- / Tuesday, May 24, 2011

 Search in site...

SAN DIEGO Jewish World

Published by the Harrison Enterprises
PO Box 19363, San Diego, CA 92159
Donald & Nancy Harrison, co-publishers
email: sdheritage@cox.net
Phone: 619 265 0808

There is a Jewish story everywhere

- [Home](#)
- [Countries](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Jewish](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)
- [Publisher's Corner](#)
- [San Diego](#)
- [San Diego history](#)
- [San Diego Jewish calendar](#)
- [Science and Education](#)
- [SD News](#)
- [Writers](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Text Ads](#)
- [Directory](#)

'August: Osage County' an emotional odyssey of Grand Canyon proportions

By Carol Davis



Carol Davis

SAN DIEGO — On the way out of the Old Globe Theatre during the second intermission of Tracy Letts's 3 1/2 hour family drama, *August: Osage County*, the woman sitting next to me remarked that the Weston family of Letts's drama made her family look good! My guess is, many in the audience might agree and many may see similarities to this group up on stage, hopefully though not quite as intense!

Tracy Letts's 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning dark family saga makes the wicked stepsister's and stepmother in Disney's *Cinderella* seem like your next-door cookie swapping neighbors. The Weston Family in Lett's brutally honest and somewhat disturbing 'family' comedy/drama devour each other like the four characters in Yasmina Reza's *God Of Carnage* now playing at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles through the 29th.

The Westons, all five, take no hostages and none of them including the matriarch Violet (Lois Markle) has many redeeming qualities. With all the drama swirling around the Weston Family, the real spotlight here is the demise, decentralization, dissatisfaction, dysfunction and discordance of the American Family and way of life as most would like to look back at it or maybe just in the Plains States. Lest we forget as well, mother daughter relationships/competition are sometimes the hardest to reconcile and this family of females is no different.

Lett's story takes place in the rambling (David Zinn) three-story family home of Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) smack dab in the middle of a family crisis. His three daughters grew up there. Ivy (Carla Harting) is single and a professor at Pawhuska College who harbors a huge secret, and is the middle daughter. She still lives in Osage and is the first contact in a crisis. The other two flew the coop years earlier.

Oldest daughter Barbara (Angela Reed) lives in Colorado and is a college professor whose marriage is on the rocks (her husband is having an affair with one of his young college students) and their fourteen-year old daughter, Jean (Ronete Levenson) is as screwed up (she smokes pot) and is growing up way too fast. Keep your eyes on her becoming her mother. Scary. Youngest Weston, daughter Karen (Kelly McAndrew) is still looking for the 'Bluebird of Happiness' following one disappointment after another.

Now Beverly and his wife Vi live together alone in an unholy alliance. She takes pills and he drinks and that's been their arrangement for years. ("That's the bargain we've struck... just one of the bargains, just one paragraph of our marriage contract..."). She takes everything from Valium, Vicodin, Darvon, Darvocet, Percodan, and Xanax to OxyContin and Dilaudid, some just for fun and some in a pinch. And just so you get a clearer picture, Vi doesn't think she needs treatment for her habit.

Vi is suffering from mouth cancer (an irony of major proportions since the remarks that come out of it are as sick and lethal as her diagnosis) and Beverly is still reciting lines from T.S. Eliot and sifting through old manuscripts and papers (scattered all around his study) from a bygone era when he taught and wrote poetry (He was a world-class poet in his day) at the University. Both are walking zombies. The one difference between the two is that Beverly has already said 'Uncle' and Vi is still on the warpath.

It gets so hot in August in Osage County, Oklahoma, the largest county in the state, that "tropical birds ... had died of the heat." Their home and property is in the town of Pawhuska and that's where Karen and Barbara are summoned by Ivy to deal with the disappearance of their father. All three and their spouses, Bill (Joseph Adams), Barbara's husband and daughter Jean along with Steve (Robert Maffia), Karen's fiancé, converge to support Vi and Ivy and try to solve the mystery of the missing Beverly.

And what would a family circle look like if Vi's sister and brother-in-law, Mattie Fae (Robin Pearson Rose) and Charles (Guy Boyd gentle soul in a family of soulless beings) and their adult (he's 37) yet challenged son 'Little Charles' (Haynes Thigpen) were left out of the family portrait? No such luck as they all pour into the Weston home. In this mix is Johnna, (Kimberly Guerrero) the young Native American beauty Beverly hired, before she went MIA, to help with the household chores and watch over Violet.

With deft direction, spot-on focus by Sam Gold and an all-star cast we are taken on Lett's family odyssey fresh out of the starting gate with Beverly's instructions and, if you will, slight intro into the disaster about to happen as he converses with Johnna about his family. Foxworth, whose only appearance is in this one scene, sets the tone, in his usual understated manner, and while he is no longer physically there, his presence is felt throughout especially at the funeral dinner in his honor? when the sparks of the family ignite and all the rest, as they say, is just the frosting on the cake.

All three of the Weston women have their turn at unearthing some golden tidbit about growing up a Weston and how it has affected their loves into their adult worlds and careers. Sibling rivalry, family trust and secrets and gotcha moments are fired at rapid pace as each one goes after the other gently and reconciliatorily at first but later growing to pariah proportions before all leave exhausted, chewed up and spat out at play's end.

But the key to the Weston family mentality is matriarch Violet, a devious, cynical, chain smoking and sick addict who is hell bent on emotionally breaking her offspring while seemingly devoid of any emotional needs of her own. Embodying her spirit, stick thin and wearing a slip (most of the time) Lois Markle is simply amazing as she beats her daughters down by taking aim at the weakest point in their personalities and somehow, with all the pill popping, knows exactly what is going on, with each and every one of her offspring.

While she professes love and admiration for Barbara she points out that she is no spring chicken. She has Ivy scared to death to tell her anything about her personal life, constantly criticizing her for not being married and Karen admits that she has been unhappy all her life and had to move away as far as Florida. On top of that she has the chutzpah to play 'who was Dad's favorite', Beverly against Karen. All three women have their moments and it's difficult to single one out from the other given their impaired view of the world at the start.

Robin Pearson Rose, a long time Globe favorite is her usual strong self as Violet's staunchest supporter yet a more humane younger sister. She too drops a bomb or two along the way as does Karen's fiance, Steve, who no matter what Karen believes, is another snake oil deviate that she's willing to hitch her star on. Ronete Levenson's Jena is also full of surprises as is 'Little Charles'. (Hayes Thigpen is a tough act to follow and does it well.) Joseph Adam's Bill, Barbara's soon-to-be-divorced husband, carries out his duties as the cheatin' hubby with consistency and Kimberly Guerrero's Johnna seemed a little creepy especially at the end when after so much damage, so much is left in the air. It's the story that keeps on giving.

Last year I trained it up to Los Angeles to this show and didn't want it to end even after over three hours. I can still hear it. This is a big show for the Old Globe and I was stoked when I learned they were staging it. David Zinn's awesome and huge set, Clint Ramos' period costumes, Japhy Weideman's lighting and Fitz Patton's sound design combined with stellar acting makes this one odyssey worth taking and one hazzah for the Old Globe.

PS. Disclosure: I have three daughters. Any information concerning family is tucked away in an unspecified underground vault. Speculate!

See you at the theatre.

Dates: through June 12th

Organization: Old Globe Theatre

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: comedy/drama

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Ticket Prices: \$29.00-\$85.00

Web: theoldglobe.org

Venue: Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

*

Davis is a San Diego-based theatre critic. She may be contacted at www.gcsummit.com

[Bookmark It](#)



[Hide Sites](#)

Short URL: <http://www.sdjewishworld.com/?p=17608>

San Diego, CA



DISCLAIMER

Learn More

\$239 a Month*
36 Month Lease
\$2,999 Due at Signing
Sorento FWD LX A/T

“August: Osage County” Letts’s comedy/drama off the Richter scale



Carol Davis



Subscribe

Sponsor an Examiner



Scene from August: Osage County
Credits: Henry DiRocco



Slideshow: [August: Osage County](#)

Rating for Osage: Orange County:

Do you like this review?

Like

Send

Sign Up to see what
your friends like.

San Diego, CA---On the way out of the Old Globe Theatre during the second intermission of Tracy Letts’s three and a half hour family drama, “August: Osage County”, the woman sitting next to me remarked that the Weston family of Letts’s drama made her family look good! My guess is, many in the audience might agree and many may see similarities to this group up on stage with their respective family compositions past and present, hopefully tough not quite as intense!

Tracy Letts’s 2007 Pulitzer Prize winning dark family saga makes the wicked stepsister’s and stepmother in Disney’s “Cinderella” seem like your next-door cookie swapping neighbors. The Weston Family in Lett’s brutally honest and somewhat disturbing ‘family’ comedy/drama devour each other like the four characters in Yasmina Reza’s “God Of Carnage” now playing at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles through the 29th.

Related Topics

[August: Osage County](#)

[Tracy Letts](#)

[comedy/drama](#)

[Old Globe](#)

[Lois Markle](#)

The Weston's, all five, take no hostages and none of them including the matriarch Violet (Lois Markle) has many redeeming qualities. With all the drama swirling around the Weston Family, the real spotlight here is the demise, decentralization, dissatisfaction, dysfunction and discordance of the American Family and way of life as most would like to look back at, it or maybe just in the Plains States. Lest we forget as well, mother daughter relationships/competition are sometimes the hardest to reconcile and this family of females is no different.

Lett's story takes place in the rambling (David Zinn) three story family home of Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) smack dab in the middle of America, and a growing family crisis. His three daughters grew up in Osage County, Okla. Ivy, (Carla Harting) is single and a Professor at Pawhuska college who harbors a huge secret, and is the middle daughter. She still lives in Osage and is the first contact in a crisis. The other two flew the coop years earlier.

Oldest daughter Barbara (Angela Reed), next in line to becoming her mother, lives in Colorado and is a college professor whose marriage is on the rocks (her husband is having an affair with one of his young college students) and their fourteen year old daughter, Jean, (Ronete Levenson) is screwed up (she smokes pot) and is growing up way too fast. Youngest Weston daughter Karen, (Kelly McAndrew) is still looking for the 'Bluebird of Happiness" following one disappointment after another.

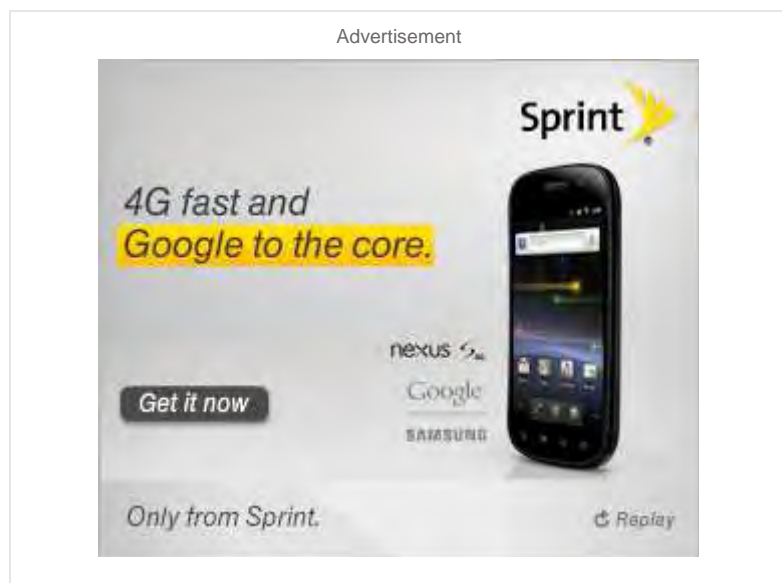
Now, Beverly and his wife Vi live together alone in an unholy alliance. She takes pills and he drinks and that's been their arrangement for years. ("That's the bargain we've struck...just one of the bargains, just one paragraph of our marriage contract..."). She takes everything from Valium, Vicodin, Darvon, Darvocet, Percodan, and Xanax to OxyContin and Dilaudid, some just for fun and some in a pinch. And just so you get a clearer picture, Vi doesn't think she needs treatment for her habit.

Vi is suffering from mouth cancer (an irony of major proportions since the remarks that come out of it are as sick and lethal as her diagnosis) and Beverly is still reciting lines from T.S. Eliot and sifting through old manuscripts and papers

(scattered all around his study) from a bygone era when he taught and wrote poetry (He was a world class poet in his day.) at the University. Both are walking zombies. The one difference between the two is that Beverly has already said 'Uncle' and Vi is still on the warpath.

It gets so hot in August in Osage County, Oklahoma, the largest county in the state, that once 'tropical birds they had owned died of the heat'. Their home and property is in the town of Pawhuska and that's where Karen and Barbara are summoned by Ivy to deal with the disappearance of their father. All three and their spouses, Bill (Joseph Adams), Barbara's husband and daughter Jean along with Steve (Robert Maffia) Karen's fiancé converge to support Vi and Ivy and try to solve the mystery of the missing Beverly.

And what would a family circle look like if Vi's sister and brother in law, Mattie Fae (Robin Pearson Rose) and Charles (Guy Boyd gentle soul in a family of soul less beings) and their adult (he's 37) yet challenged son 'Little Charles' (Haynes Thigpen) were left out of the family portrait? No such luck as they all pour into the Weston home. In this mix add Johnna, (Kimberly Guerrero) the young Native American beauty Beverly hired, before went MIA, to help with the household chores and watch over Violet.



With deft direction, spot on focus by Sam Gold and an all star cast we are taken on Letts's family odyssey fresh out of the starting gate with Beverly's instructions and, if you will, slight

intro into the disaster about to happen as he converses with Johnna about his family. Foxworth, whose only appearance is in this one scene, sets the tone, in his usual understated manner, and while he is not longer physically there, his presence is felt throughout especially at the funereal dinner in his honor(?) when the sparks of the Weston family ignite. All the rest, they say, is just the frosting on the cake.

All three of the Weston women have their turn at unearthing some golden tidbit about growing up a Weston and how it has affected their lives into their adult worlds and careers. Sibling rivalry, family trust and secrets and gotcha moments are fired at rapid pace as each one goes after the other gently and reconciliatory at first but later growing to pariah proportions before all leave exhausted, chewed up and spat out at plays end.

But the key to the Weston family mentality is matriarch Violet, a devious, cynical, chain smoking and sick addict who is hell bent on emotionally breaking her offspring while seemingly devoid of any emotional needs of her own. Embodying her spirit, stick thin and wearing a slip (most of the time) Lois Markle is simply amazing as she beats her daughters down by taking aim at the weakest point in their personalities and somehow, with all the pill popping, knowing exactly what is going on with each and every one of her offspring.

While she professes love and admiration for Barbara she points out that she is no spring chicken. She has Ivy scared to death to tell her anything about her personal life, constantly criticizing her for not being married and Karen admits that she has been unhappy all her life and had to move away as far as Florida. On top of that she has the chutzpah to play 'who was Dad's favorite', Beverly against Karen. All three women have their moments and it's difficult to single one out from the other given their impaired view of the world at the start.

Robin Pearson Rose, a long time Old Globe favorite is her usual strong self as Violet's staunchest supporter yet a more humane younger sister. She too drops a bomb or two along the way as does Karen's fiance, Steve, who no matter what Karen believes, is another snake oil deviate that she's willing to hitch her star on. Ronete Levenson's Jena is also full of surprises as is 'Little Charles'. (Hayes Thigpen is a tough act

to follow and does it well.) Joseph Adam's Bill, Barbara's soon to be divorced husband, carries out his duties as the cheatin' hubby with consistency. Kimberly Guerrero's Johnna gives a great performance, but at the end her presence seemed a little creepy especially when, after so much damage is done and so much is left up in the air, we find Vi and Johnna left staring at each other in the sprawling Weston home. It's the family that keeps on giving.

Last year I trained it up to Los Angeles to this show and didn't want it to end even after over three hours. I can still hear it. This is a big show for the Old Globe and I was stoked when I learned they were staging it. David Zinn's awesome and huge set, Clint Ramos' period costumes, Japhy Weideman's lighting and Fitz Patton's sound design combined with stellar acting makes this one odyssey worth taking with Hazzah's for the Old Globe.

See you at the theatre.

Dates: through June 12th

Organization: Old Globe Theatre

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: comedy/drama

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Ticket Prices: \$29.00-\$85.00

Web: theoldglobe.org

Venue: Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

Like

Send

Sign Up to see what
your friends like



[Read full bio](#)

By **Carol Davis**

San Diego Theater Examiner

Carol Davis is a regular contributor to sdjewishworld.com. Before that she wrote for The San Diego Jewish Times for over twenty years. Carol has...

[Get my newsletter](#)

[Get my RSS feed](#)

[Become an Examiner](#)

[Sponsor an Examiner](#)

KPBS Radio just launched its [new schedule](#)! *These Days* moves to noon and is now called [Midday Edition](#).

‘August: Osage County’ Is Actors’ Catnip



Above: The cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County," directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe Theatre.

By [Angela Carone](#)

May 26, 2011

A dysfunctional family has taken up residence at the Old Globe Theatre in the play "August: Osage County." The Westons of Oklahoma are just like other families, except tougher, meaner, and a lot funnier.

They Westons are the brainchildren of playwright Tracy Letts, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2008 for this darkly comic family drama.

"'August: Osage County' is like catnip for actors," says director Sam Gold. "You get to tell jokes and stories. You get to curse and scream and get mad at each other. You get to behave badly. There are very few plays out there where people behave as badly as they do in 'August: Osage County.'"



Credit: Photo by Henry DiRocco

Above: (from left) Angela Reed as Barbara Fordham, Carla Harting as Ivy Weston and Kelly McAndrew as Karen Weston in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County."

job. I mean I'm horrible to all of them. And I think Violet takes great joy in that."

Take this dinner table scene, when Violet sets her sights on her daughter Karen, who disagrees with her.

IVY: Mom believes women don't grow more attractive with age.

KAREN: Oh, I disagree, I ...

VIOLET: I didn't say they "don't grow more attractive," I said they get ugly. And it's not really a matter of opinion, Karen dear. Which you've only just started to prove yourself.

Markle admits, "I must say the audience gasps at that and I don't blame them. How cruel can you be?"

The ensemble cast of 13 does fight through most of the play...and throw things. And smoke.

In fact, Markle used to be a four-pack-a-day smoker who quit in 1976. As Violet, she has to smoke almost constantly through the three-hour production (nevermind that her character has mouth cancer!). Markle says she tried herbal cigarettes but they were too harsh. "So I'm now using actual cigarettes with actual nicotine in them. I still get dizzy when I take a deep drag, but

Substance abuse, cancer, affairs, transgressions, the Westons have it all. Some families master the art of denial, others passive aggression. But the Weston family? They lay it all out there - in language - lots of it.

"They're very verbal," says actress Angela Reed. Reed plays Barbara, the oldest of three Weston daughters, all of whom return to the family home (with spouses, children and lovers in tow) when their alcoholic father disappears. "She grew up in a house where her father's a writer and her mother's extremely intelligent. So she has at her disposal all these words and phrases that we only wish we had on the tip of our tongue."

It's that rapid-fire dialogue, full of barbs and wit, that carry this play along. For a three-hour production, it doesn't let up. Gold notes: "You can do a play that's 80 minutes long and it takes a ton out of you because you're lifting this thing, whereas 'August,' it's like a rocket that takes off and you're along for the ride."

As the Westons gather, they learn that Violet, the family matriarch, is still nursing a pill addiction, and she's as mean as ever. Lois Markle plays Violet. She's a veteran actress who may look frail, but she's a powerhouse on stage. Markle says, "I try to drill every one of them into the ground. I mean that's my



Credit: Photo by Henry DiRocco.

Above: (from left) Lois Markle as Violet Weston, Robert Foxworth as Beverly Weston and Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna Monevata in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "August: Osage County."

unfortunately I'm getting to be good at the smoking part. So I just don't let my head go there. When I leave the theater, I'm a non-smoker."

Angela Reed doesn't smoke either, but in the play, Barbara, her character, asks for a cigarette after a particularly stressful family gathering. "I have to say that every night when I ask for that cigarette, I can't wait to get it. There's something very relaxing about it... And I don't like to smoke at all. But I completely understand why she asks for that cigarette and enjoys it so much in that moment. But she is sadly, slowly turning into her mother, so there's that."

Reed admits that performing "August" is emotionally exhausting. "And it's incredibly exhilarating to get a lot of stuff out. I don't take a lot home with me. There's no reason to, I'm playing it every night."

The world of this Oklahoma family really comes to life in the set, brilliantly designed by David Zinn. A three-story cut out of a house sits on the stage. It looks like a dollhouse for a hoarder or a 70s-era recluse. It has shag carpet and the windows are covered in plastic to keep out the light. Reed says it's in great disarray. "There's a lot of clutter. A lot of bottles a lot of cigarette butts, a lot of paper and a lot of debris."

Gold says it's all about filling out the family's reality. "I wanted it to feel like a real house, a real family." Gold makes sure the whole house is used during the play. When a scene takes place in the den, another character is upstairs reading, or in the kitchen brewing coffee. It's never distracting, but catching glimpses of family members moving in the kitchen lends an element of verisimilitude.

Gold says, "I think the audience could be getting information from what everybody's doing when they're not in a scene."

Gold and Zinn went to Oklahoma and toured people's homes in order to get the details of the house just right. But Reed says there's one detail the audience will never see. One of the stagehands stuck a wicked witch under the back of the house, with just her feet and striped tights sticking out, like in "The Wizard of Oz." "I walked by it one day and saw this witch who had been trampled by this house and just laughed....It's fantastic!"

It's the humor in "August: Osage County" that offsets the troubled story of the Weston family. Gold says you rarely see epic plays like this anymore. "It's a play in the style of the great American plays like a Eugene O'Neill or Arthur Miller or Tennessee Williams play – it's a big family drama."

"August: Osage County" runs through June 12th at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

[home \(http://www.culturevulture.net/\)](http://www.culturevulture.net/) [art & architecture \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=1&Itemid=2\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=1&Itemid=2) [etc \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=12&Itemid=11\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=12&Itemid=11) [dance \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=4&Itemid=4\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=4&Itemid=4) [destinations \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=5&Itemid=5\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=5&Itemid=5) [film \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=2&Itemid=7\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=2&Itemid=7) [opera \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=9&Itemid=8\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=9&Itemid=8) [television \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=8&Itemid=9\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=8&Itemid=9) [theater \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=7&Itemid=10\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=7&Itemid=10) [books & cds \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=3&Itemid=3\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=3&Itemid=3) [features \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=15&Itemid=25\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=15&Itemid=25) [archives \(/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=19\)](/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=19)



August: /index.php?view=article&catid=7%3Atheater&id=589%3Aaugust-osage-county-san-diego&tmpl=component&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvaW5kZXgucGhwP2format=pdf&print=1&layout=default&option=com_content&page=&Itemid=10
 Osage /index.php?view=article&catid=7%3Atheater&id=589%3Aaugust-osage-county-san-diego&tmpl=component&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvaW5kZXgucGhwP2format=pdf&print=1&layout=default&option=com_content&page=&Itemid=10
 County, /index.php?view=article&catid=7%3Atheater&id=589%3Aaugust-osage-county-san-diego&tmpl=component&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvaW5kZXgucGhwP2format=pdf&print=1&layout=default&option=com_content&page=&Itemid=10
 San /index.php?view=article&catid=7%3Atheater&id=589%3Aaugust-osage-county-san-diego&tmpl=component&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvaW5kZXgucGhwP2format=pdf&print=1&layout=default&option=com_content&page=&Itemid=10
 Diego /index.php?view=article&catid=7%3Atheater&id=589%3Aaugust-osage-county-san-diego&tmpl=component&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvaW5kZXgucGhwP2format=pdf&print=1&layout=default&option=com_content&page=&Itemid=10



Lois Markle (center) and members of the cast of
 "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe
 Photo by Henry DiRocco

August: Osage County

By Tracy Letts
 Directed by Sam Gold
 The Old Globe, San Diego
 May 7 – June 12, 2011

"Incredible" is the first word that comes to
 mind to describe the [Tracy Letts](http://www.steppenwolf.org/ensemble/members/details.aspx?id=41)
 ([http://www.steppenwolf.org/ensemble](http://www.steppenwolf.org/ensemble/members/details.aspx?id=41)
[/members/details.aspx?id=41](http://www.steppenwolf.org/ensemble/members/details.aspx?id=41))' play

"August: Osage County." It is, to say the least, an extraordinary piece of American literature to be ranked up with the most popular classics. "Amazing" is the second word, and that's for the remarkable [Old Globe \(http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=8146\)](http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=8146) production of the play.

It starts with the gargantuan set that swallows and spits out members of the Weston family at will. It is a two-story Midwestern house, topped by an attic. This astounding and practical set, ingeniously designed by [David Zinn \(http://www.mrdavidzinn.com/\)](http://www.mrdavidzinn.com/) after a real house he and director [Sam Gold \(http://americantheatrewing.org/biography/detail/sam_gold\)](http://americantheatrewing.org/biography/detail/sam_gold) found on a research trip to Oklahoma, fills out every inch of usable space on the Old Globe main stage. In many ways the life-size dollhouse reflects most of its residents and guests. Regardless of its outside appearance, the inside is cluttered, messy and imperfect. It has seen too much and has been scarred through the years. We see the potential of this hall, but the cleanup task would, no doubt, be daunting. A stranger passing by would not see all this, as the windows are taped over with black plastic. But if that stranger hangs out long enough, as we the audience do, he will get a full look inside and will know more than he ever wished about the disarray that reigns in the Weston residence.

The Westons, a dysfunctional family reunited after a member's passing, appear onstage gradually. First, we meet Beverly ([Robert Foxworth \(http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0289343/bio\)](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0289343/bio)), the patriarch, and Johnna Monevata ([Kimberly Guerrero \(http://www.steppenwolf.org/boxoffice/productions/bio.aspx?id=375&crewId=1517\)](http://www.steppenwolf.org/boxoffice/productions/bio.aspx?id=375&crewId=1517)), a young local Cheyenne woman he hopes to hire for some greatly needed housekeeping. She will also care for Violet ([Lois Markle \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Lois_Markle/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Lois_Markle/)), Beverly's wife, who is afflicted with several ailments and might prove a bigger challenge than the cleaning and the cooking. Next is supposedly single Ivy ([Carla Harting \(http://www.abouttheartists.com/artists/29763\)](http://www.abouttheartists.com/artists/29763)), one of three daughters. The two others are Barbara ([Angela Reed \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Angela_Reed/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Angela_Reed/)) and Karen ([Kelly McAndrew \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Kelly_McAndrew/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Kelly_McAndrew/)). This trio has drifted apart and tries to somewhat reconnect at this impromptu reunion. Barbara came accompanied by her husband, Bill ([Joseph Adams \(http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0011096/\)](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0011096/)), and their high school-aged daughter, Jean ([Ronete Levenson \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Ronete_Levenson/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Ronete_Levenson/)). Karen brought her fiancé, Steve ([Robert Maffia \(http://www.steppenwolf.org/boxoffice/productions/bio.aspx?id=425&crewId=1829\)](http://www.steppenwolf.org/boxoffice/productions/bio.aspx?id=425&crewId=1829)), who has never met the rest of the Weston clan. To complete the family picture, we meet the archetypal Midwest couple, Aunt Mattie Fae ([Robin Pearson Rose \(http://www.thegreysanatomywiki.com/page/Robin+Pearson+Rose\)](http://www.thegreysanatomywiki.com/page/Robin+Pearson+Rose)) and Uncle Charlie ([Guy Boyd \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Guy_Boyd/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Guy_Boyd/)), with their son, Little Charlie ([Haynes Thigpen \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Haynes_Thigpen/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Haynes_Thigpen/)). Last, but not least, the sheriff of the town, Deon Gilbeau ([Todd Cerveris \(http://broadwayworld.com/people/Todd_Cerveris/\)](http://broadwayworld.com/people/Todd_Cerveris/)), is the bearer of not-so-good news.

The performance that stands out is by Lois Markle, as Violet. Violet drives the action, and the impact she makes on every member of the family is colossal. She has chosen this gathering to be "truth-telling time", which of course upsets the usual polite etiquette everyone would like to adopt. Performing this role has to be a very difficult task, considering the complexity of the character, both physically and psychologically, but Markle pulls it off superbly and produces an act of the highest caliber.

But what is truly noteworthy is that most of the other performances in this production are first class. The large group of actors has a powerful chemistry onstage, and we never doubt any of the family affiliations. They also exploit every single opportunity for humor (and there is plenty to be found there, despite the serious subject matter) and make this three-hour-long gem of a play go by like a snap.

"August: Osage County" is beyond doubt a not-to-be missed theatrical adventure.

Patricia Humeau

[Email this \(javascript:void\(0\);\)](#)

[Bookmark \(javascript:void\(0\);\)](#)

[Set as favorite \(javascript:void\(0\);\)](#)

Comments (0)

 [Subscribe to this comment's feed \(http://www.culturevulture.net/index.php?option=com_jomcomment&task=rss&contentid=589&opt=com_content\)](http://www.culturevulture.net/index.php?option=com_jomcomment&task=rss&contentid=589&opt=com_content)

Write comment

Name

[HOME](#) [PAST COLUMNS](#) [ABOUT](#)

SAN DIEGO

Regional Reviews by Bill Eadie

August: Osage County

Old Globe Theatre

Also see Bill's review of [A Dram of Drummhicit](#)

August: Osage County may have won the Pulitzer Prize for its author, Tracy Letts, but the success of the play was due in large measure to its development and subsequent production by Chicago's famed Steppenwolf Theatre. But, perhaps the truest test of a play's staying power comes when new creative teams rethink and reshape it. By that standard, the Old Globe's production, running through June 12, shows *August: Osage County* to deserve every bit of the acclaim that was heaped upon it.



Set in rural Indian country northwest of Tulsa, *Osage County* is lightly populated. In August, the sun beats down relentlessly, and while other months feature local festivals and home-grown entertainment, in August things get very quiet. It's easy to understand how folks might become depressed in August, and Beverly Weston (Robert Foxworth) has got it bad. "Life is very long," he intones, quoting from T. S. Eliot's poem, "The Hollow Men," the first of several quotations from this poem throughout the course of the three-hour play. Beverly is expounding on life, poetry, and all topics in between to Johnna Monevata (Kimberly Guerrero), a local woman of Osage Indian ancestry whom he has hired to cook, clean, and care for his wife, Violet (Lois Markle). It seems that Violet, who has been addled by addiction to prescription medications, has become too much for Beverly's care. And, indeed, once Johnna has moved in, Beverly goes off on a drive, never to return.

The Weston family gathers at the news that Beverly has gone missing, and none of them proves to be a model of rectitude. Daughter Barbara (Angela Reed) tries to set a good example, despite having a husband (Joseph Adams) who has moved out in favor of a much younger woman, and a daughter (Ronete Levenson) who has adolescent issues with drugs and nascent sexuality. Middle daughter Ivy (Carla Harting) stayed in the area when the others moved away and now longs to follow the pattern set by her sisters. Youngest daughter Karen (Kelly McAndrew) moved the furthest and came back the least, but her life has not been stable; she appears with a fiancé, the thrice-divorced Steve (Robert Maffia). Violet's sister Mattie Fae (Robin Pearson Rose) turns up, too, looking just a wee bit too smug about her sister's dilemma, bringing husband Charlie (Guy Boyd) and "special needs" son Little Charles (Haynes Thigpen) in tow, but insisting on driving back to Tulsa each evening. You see, Violet keeps the house airless and in darkness, a la Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, and it becomes a literal and figurative hothouse.

It doesn't take much watering to grow the family's dysfunction, and Mr. Letts plays out each character's story over the course of three acts. Lots of secrets find their way into sight, and there are relationship reversals worthy of Eugene O'Neill's great family drama's or Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. If played right, by the time the audience hears the final quote from "The Hollow Men,"

This is the way the world ends,

This is the way the world ends,

This is the way the world ends, ...

many in the audience should not be surprised to learn that the line left out is, "Not with a bang, but a whimper."

Director Sam Gold has not completely re-thought the show (Mr. Letts is pretty specific about how it should go), but he has cast it with great care (and with good help from the Globe's regular casting agent, Samantha Barrie, CSA). There are some links to the Steppenwolf version, particularly in the form of Ms. Guerrero, who originated the part of Johnna and who plays her here with even more clarity and depth than when I saw her on Broadway. Mr. Gold's strength comes in underlining key lines and moments with his cast and drawing the subtext out of the text without overplaying his hand. This strength comes most to the fore in densely written scenes, such as ones near the beginning of the play—and, here, Mr. Foxworth proved to be a very sympathetic collaborator. It was a canny move to cast such an accomplished performer in the role of Weston, and Mr. Foxworth does not disappoint (nor does he stick around for the curtain call).

The creative elements are all first-rate. David Zinn's three-story house sprawls across the smallish Globe stage, and the set's indications that we are in a packrat's Heaven or Hell (you decide) are brilliantly composed. Japhy Weideman's lighting takes advantage of the fact that the set extends on one side to the backstage wall by ignoring realism and blaring a bank of white noise (oh, sorry, meant light) to show how the sun beats down on the house during daytime. Clint Ramos' costumes capture the different locales from which family members have come, while Fitz Patton's sound design is subtle enough not to overwhelm the actors, who do not wear body mics. (I obtained an assisted listening device at the first intermission to insure that I would hear each line clearly.)

August: Osage County is a magnificent play, certainly one of the best of the as yet young 21st century, and the Old Globe's production responds in kind.

August: Osage County performs through June 12, 2011, at the Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, in San Diego's Balboa Park. Tickets (\$29-85) available by calling (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623] or by visiting [The Old Globe's website](http://www.oldglobe.org).

The Old Globe presents *August: Osage County*, by Tracy Letts. Directed by Sam Gold with David Zinn (Scenic Design), Clint Ramos (Costume Design), Japhy Weideman (Lighting Design), Fitz Patton (Sound Design) and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

With Joseph Adams (Bill Fordham), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston), Kimberly Guerrero (Johnna Monevata), Carla Harting (Ivy Weston), Ronete Levenson (Jean Fordham), Robert Maffia (Steve Heidebrecht), Lois Markle (Violet Weston), Kelly McAndrew (Karen Weston), Angela Reed (Barbara Fordham), Robin Pearson Rose (Mattie Fae Aiken) and Haynes Thigpen (Little Charles Aiken).

Photo: Henry DiRocco

See the [current season schedule for the San Diego area](#).

- [Bill Eadie](#)

Follow Bill on Twitter: www.twitter.com/SDBillEadie.



May 27, 2011/2:27 PM

[home](#) | [advertise with u](#)

**CLICK HERE FOR
SOCAL EVENT LISTINGS**

Search in Articles & Archives

FEATURES

[Publisher's Corner](#)

[The Blend](#)

[Scene It!](#)

[Featured stories](#)

[Special Guest Contributors](#)

ARTS & LITERATURE

[LIFESTYLE](#)

[FOOD & DRINK](#)

[ENTERTAINMENT](#)

[REVIEWS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[TRAVEL](#)

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)

[COMMUNITIES](#)

[CULVER CITY NEWS](#)

SIGN UP FOR SOCAL UPDATES

Choose Newsletters :

☒ New Socal Subscribe List

enter your email address

[Manage Subscriptions](#)
[Unsubscribe](#)

ENTERTAINMENT - LIVE STAGE

San Diego Theater Review: August: Osage County

by My Nguyen

It is given known that every household has at least one black sheep in the family—individuals, who are ostracized to the point where they are left feeling like outcasts.



But the fact of the matter is that things are never quite that black and white, or as clear-cut as some people would like to make it. The looming idea that everyone is equally flawed is never addressed. Rather it is the elephant in the living room that nobody really talks about—practically domesticated by now, and trained and fed to keep quiet and out of the way. Perhaps a more apt “animal” description of what I’m trying to get at is the “scapegoat.” (Now you’re probably wondering what all these animal terminology has to do with a review on August: Osage County, but once you read further and see

how much the Weston’s household resembles your family and how much your family may resemble a circus—you’ll see what I mean). The term, scapegoat, defines a singling out of a certain party or an individual for the blame, which is pretty much synonymous to the idiom “black sheep”—both signify the singling out of an individual, and the pointing out of their obvious flaws/faults so that you can bury away yours. Pretty hypocritical if you think about it.

What makes August: Osage County—which is currently running at the Old Globe through June 12—interesting is that the very malevolence that colors these characters defines them in a wholly different sense. Instead of meekly pointing fingers and trying to place the blame onto others, the members of the Weston family instead use their fellow kinsman, their flaws, etc., to provide fodder and ammunition for their own agendas. Quite a jaded way to go about things, but the matriarch of the family, Violet Weston, certainly had no qualms when her husband is discovered missing to use his disappearance to her advantage. Her children after years of living their own lives are suddenly reunited under the same roof. Sparks start to fly, as well as secrets, lies, and

past betrayals. Yet nothing escapes the sharp eyes and ears of Violet. Perhaps she is the key to the entire households' distress. Certainly, what goes around comes around.

Imperfections, flaws, and betrayals all make it into the list of this dysfunctional family. What makes August such a dynamic piece of drama is its ability to play with any given character's faults and make it work as well as have each character be as cunning and as beautifully flawed all at one simultaneous ease. Tracy Letts has penned a spry dark comedy that is all at once quirky and inspiring as it is rooted in shadows and secrecy.

Under the direction of Obie Award winner Sam Gold, the cast of August: Osage County is able to inhabit their roles fully. Lois Markle does a spectacular job of encompassing her part as the grand dame, Violet Weston. The play never reaches a dull moment due to the sure-fire quick wit delivery that Markle invests into her character. Angela Reed as Barbara Fordham also does a fantastic job of portraying a character thrust into a predicament she never really wanted to inherit, but because she is Violet's favorite, she tries to wrest the reins of control from her mother anyhow.

Ironically, although she fails in this attempt, theatergoers will walk away feeling that Barbara has actually won instead.

In the case of a win-lose situation, August: Osage County is a definite winner. With a never-ending store of quick-witted banter, this

dark-comedy will certainly keep audience members on their toes. A well of surprises and arresting dialogue makes August: Osage County a must-see theater-going experience.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.



[Printable Version of the Article](#)

[E-Mail This Article To A Friend](#)



RELATED ARTICLES

Related Articles: No Related Content Found



MISSION HILLS • BANKERS HILL • HILLCREST • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • NORTH PARK • SOUTH PARK • NORMAL HEIGHTS • KENSINGTON

San Diego Uptown News News about the communities of Hillcrest, Mission Hills, Kensington, North Park, South Park, University and Normal Heights, Bankers Hill

- **Advertising**
- **Arts & Entertainment**
 - **Artist Profile**
 - **Book Reviews**
 - **Concert**
 - **Dance**
 - **Festivals & Fairs**
 - **Movies**
 - **Museums**
 - **Music**
 - **Opera**
 - **Theater**
 - **TV**
 - **Visual Arts**
- **Breaking News**
 - **Fire**
 - **Police**
- **Columnists**
- **Communities**
 - **Adams Avenue**
 - **Balboa Park**
 - **Bankers Hill**
 - **Burlingame**
 - **Business**
 - **Business Profiles**
 - **Downtown**
 - **Education**
 - **Environmental News**
 - **Five Points-Middletown**
 - **Golden Hill**
 - **Hillcrest**
 - **History**
 - **Infrastructure**
 - **Kensington**
 - **Kensington Sign**
 - **Little Italy**
 - **Mission Hills**
 - **News**

- [Normal Heights](#)
- [North Park](#)
- [Old Town](#)
- [Organizations](#)
- [Parking](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [South Park](#)
- [Talmadge](#)
- [University Heights](#)
- [Fashion](#)
- [Food & Drink](#)
 - [Bars/Happy Hours](#)
 - [Beer](#)
 - [Restaurants](#)
 - [Specialty Food Market](#)
 - [Wine](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
 - [Author Profiles](#)
 - [Gardening](#)
 - [Health and Fitness](#)
 - [homes](#)
 - [Outdoor Activities](#)
 - [Parks](#)
 - [People Profiles](#)
 - [Pets](#)
 - [Religion](#)
 - [Ron Stern's Travel Articles](#)
 - [San Diego Zoo](#)
 - [Travel](#)
 - [Weddings & Commitments](#)
 - [Weekenders](#)
- [Opinion](#)
 - [Memoriams](#)
 - [Politicians](#)
 - [Uncategorized](#)

“August: Osage County”: A stark look at family dynamics

Posted by [admin](#) on 5/31/11 • Categorized as [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Theater](#)

Louis Markle as Violet Weston (center) with the cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play 'August: Osage County,' directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe, May 7-June 12. Photography by Henry DiRocco.



“August: Osage County”

When: Through June 12

Where: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85

Info: (619) 23-GLOBE

Web: TheOldGlobe.org

By Patricia Morris Buckley | SDUN Theatre Critic

If Tennessee Williams were still alive he would write “August: Osage County.” It’s filled with some of his favorite themes: Hearts irrevocably broken, deeply hidden family secrets, long held grudges, sibling discord, a sprinkle of incest, and characters who are sinking fast in dire situations of their own making.

In other words, it’s not a comedy.

“August” is the Tony Award-winning, Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Tracy Letts. It explores the dynamics of an Oklahoma family that has been teetering on the brink of despair for many years. The action begins when Beverly Weston hires a young girl to help his wife, Violet, who is addicted to painkillers and who has mouth cancer. We soon learn he’s made this hire just before going off to kill himself.

As his three adult daughters, their significant others and children gather for the funeral, we get to know one of the nastiest characters to ever appear on stage—Violet does not live up to the delicacy and charm of her name. She is violently abusive when aware of her surroundings and practically comatose when over-doing the pills.

As secrets are exposed, lives ruined and relationships damaged without hope of repair, we watch, amazed. It seems impossible that things could get worse—until they do. In the end, there is only the slightest sliver of hope, but the fact that there’s any at all is more significant than if the character had merely survived a few small traumas. These characters are more like wounded soldiers after a bloody battle.

What lifts this production to the heights it reaches is the nuanced, detailed and heartwrenching performance of Lois Markle as Violet. It’s almost as if she’s playing one character and her evil twin, except both versions are evil in their own way. Robert Foxworth plays Beverly, who only has one scene. This is interesting because he played the uncle on Broadway.

The rest of the cast is solid. Robin Pearson Rose plays it big as Aunt Mattie Fae, while Guy Boyd has one major moment as her spouse and makes it memorable. Angela Reed plays the Weston’s eldest daughter, Barbara, who is hell-bent on telling everyone the truth, thinking that doing so will help her handle her own pain.

The play calls for a threestory set, which means the Old Globe has to open up its stage to accommodate it. David Zinn’s set dressings, with pile after pile of papers, look just as you’d imagine the home of an elderly couple dealing with drug and alcohol addiction would appear. (The only small misstep is when Violet tries to foist a breakfront on her daughters that’s a built-in.) But if there a second star to this production it’s Japhy Weideman’s stark lighting, which creates sharp shadows contrasted with seemingly normal scenes.

Sam Gold’s direction is cohesive, yet sometimes loses focus. For instance, he attempts an image at the very end that’s almost impossible to interpret and is different from the way it was directed on Broadway. That ambiguity seems ill-fitting with the script’s minute attention to detail.

Watching people go through such pain and suffering isn’t for everyone, but the journey is certainly one you won’t forget. There’s a reason this play has garnered so much praise, and the Old Globe has created a striking production.

Tool Box:



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Uptown News
Publishing Date: May 27, 2011
Circulation: 22,000
Page Number: 1
Article Size: 3 sq inch
Ad Value: \$49.27

Page 1 of 1

►► THEATRE P. 13



"Osage County."



brought to you by



Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Uptown News
Publishing Date: May 27, 2011
Circulation: 22,000
Page Number: 13,18
Article Size: 106 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,877.79

Page 1 of 2

"August: Osage County":

A stark look at family dynamics

"AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY"

When: Through June 12
Where: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park
Tickets: \$29-\$85
Info: (619) 23-GLOBE
Web: TheOldGlobe.org

By Patricia Morris Buckley
SDUN Reporter

If Tennessee Williams were still alive he would write "August: Osage County." It's filled with some of his favorite themes: Hearts irrevocably broken, deeply hidden family secrets, long held grudges, sibling discord, a sprinkle of incest, and characters who are sinking fast in dire situations of their own making.

In other words, it's not a comedy.

"August" is the Tony Award-winning, Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Tracy Letts. It explores the dynamics of an Oklahoma family that has been teetering on the brink of despair for many years. The action begins when Beverly Weston hires a young girl

see *Osage*, page 18

FROM PAGE 13 OSAGE

to help his wife, Violet, who is addicted to painkillers and who has mouth cancer. We soon learn he's made this hire just before going off to kill himself.

As his three adult daughters, their significant others and children gather for the funeral, we get to know one of the nastiest characters to ever appear on stage—Violet does not live up to the delicacy and charm of her name. She is violently abusive when aware of her surroundings and practically comatose when over-doing the pills.

As secrets are exposed, lives ruined and relationships damaged without hope of repair, we watch, amazed. It seems impossible that things could get worse—until they do. In the end, there is only the slightest sliver of hope, but the fact that there's any at all is more significant than if the character had merely survived a few small traumas. These characters are more like wounded soldiers after a bloody battle.

What lifts this production to the heights it reaches is the nuanced, detailed and heart-

wrenching performance of Lois Markle as Violet. It's almost as if she's playing one character and her evil twin, except both versions are evil in their own way. Robert Foxworth plays Beverly, who only has one scene. This is interesting because he played the uncle on Broadway.

The rest of the cast is solid. Robin Pearson Rose plays it big as Aunt Mattie Fae, while Guy Boyd has one major moment as her spouse and makes it memorable. Angela Reed plays the Weston's eldest daughter, Barbara, who is hell-bent on telling everyone the truth, thinking that doing so will help her handle her own pain.

The play calls for a three-story set, which means the Old Globe has to open up its stage to accommodate it. David Zinn's set dressings, with pile after pile of papers, look just as you'd imagine the home of an elderly couple dealing with drug and alcohol addiction would appear. (The only small misstep is when Violet tries to foist a breakup on her daughters that's a built-in.) But if there a second star to this production it's Japhy Weideman's stark lighting, which creates sharp shadows contrasted with seemingly normal scenes.

Sam Gold's direction is cohesive, yet sometimes loses focus. For instance, he attempts an image at the very end that's almost impossible to interpret and is different from the way it was directed on Broadway. That ambiguity seems ill-fitting with the script's minute attention to detail.

Watching people go through such pain and suffering isn't for everyone, but the journey is certainly one you won't forget. There's a reason this play has garnered so much praise, and the Old Globe has created a striking production.

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Uptown News
Publishing Date: May 27, 2011
Circulation: 22,000
Page Number: 13,18
Article Size: 106 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,877.79



'August: Osage County' at the Old Globe, May 7-June 12.



Lois Markle as Violet Weston (center) with the cast of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play 'August: Osage County,' directed by Sam Gold, at The Old Globe, May 7 - June 12. Photography by Henry DiRocco.



brought to you by



Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Business Journal
Publishing Date: May 23, 2011
Circulation: 15,000
Page Number: 3
Article Size: 17 sq inch
Ad Value: \$2,156.48

Page 1 of 1

There's a Familiar Ring to Theater's Phone Number



SDBJ INSIDER

Tom York

How 'bout this for a preview of a coming attraction? The 64-year-old **Coronado Village Theatre**, now being redone as a three-screen cineplex, has managed to recapture a bit of the past as it approaches a June reopening. In the old days, "island" residents dialed Henley 3-6161 to find out what was on the marquis, a number that became 435-6161 when the place closed in 2000. The new owners have obtained the last four digits of the old number, currently 437-6161, and are even in negotiations to regain the familiar 435 exchange for future use ... **Green Flash Brewing Co.**, a purveyor of handcrafted beers, is opening a new 45,000-square-foot brewery and tasting room in upper Sorrento Valley on Mira Mesa Boulevard, and it has announced that tasting will officially commence in early June. The brewery, founded in 2002 by former pub owners **Mike** and **Lisa Hinkley**, is officially closing its Vista facility and moving the corporate headquarters to San Diego on May 29. Go to greenflashbrew.com for more details ... **Andy Hoang**, the top media contact at North County's **Palomar Pomerado Health** for the past seven years, is moving to a similar position at **The Scripps Research Institute** starting in mid-June. Hoang's biggest claim to fame was driving the PR behind the successful bond

campaign underwriting construction of the \$1 billion hospital of the future in Escondido ... Private, New York City-based **The Goddard School**, a preschool that accepts kids 6 weeks to 6 years old, is expanding to San Diego with six offices. The preschool franchise plans to invest \$6 million to \$12 million locally in new outlets, says a spokeswoman ... Has the outdoor stage gone dark, forever? Balboa Park's outdoor **Starlight Theatre**, which lies under the noisy flight path to **Lindbergh Field** (performers stop in midlines as the jets pass overhead), is apparently in trouble, what with the usual start of the summer season around the corner. No musicals or other theatrical performances have been scheduled, and the website has not been updated in months ... Speaking of theater ... The Insider caught playwright **Tracy Lettis'** dark, but award-winning comedy "August: Osage County" at **The Old Globe** recently, and let's just say it's well worth the price of admission, though a word of warning: The language is a bit salty. It's running through June 12 with a cast of heavy hitters outdoing themselves in this family-focused slugfest. Details and ducats at theoldglobe.org ... And this final item: The **Citizen Diplomacy Council of San Diego** says it has selected philanthropist **Stephen R. Brown**, a retired partner at **Luce Forward**, for its annual global diplomat award, which will be handed out at a dinner set for June 16. Brown has made 11 trips to Afghanistan during the past 10 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks to help raise the level of education and improve the general quality of life. Details at sandiegodiplomacy.org.

Tom York is contributing editor of the San Diego Business Journal, and the SDBJ Insider column appears weekly. You can reach him at tyork@sdbj.com.



FEATURES

Old Globe to stage the prize-winning 'August: Osage County' in May



0

Share

Like



Lois Markle (second from left) plays matriarch Violet Weston, and (from left) Angela Reed, Kelly McAndrew and Carla Harting her daughters in 'August: Osage County,' at The Old Globe.

The Old Globe Theatre is to stage Tracy Letts' award-winning play, *August: Osage County*. Directed by Obie Award winner Sam Gold, the dark comedy runs in the Old Globe Theatre, May 7-June 12.

One of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade, *August: Osage County* won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Tracy Letts' sprawling saga about three generations of an Oklahoma family has drawn comparisons to the work of American dramatists Eugene O'Neill, Sam Shepard and Tennessee Williams.

When their father goes missing, the huge and completely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and sparks fly. Violet, the take-no-prisoners matriarch, struggles for control over a family set to implode over secrets, lies and betrayals.

A large and complex modern-day masterpiece that the *New York Times* hailed as "flat-out, no asterisks and without qualifications, the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years."

The cast of *August: Osage County* features Globe Associate Artists Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston) and Robin Pearson Rose (Mattie Fae Aiken).

Tickets can be purchased online at TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at 619-23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.



0

Share

Like

Short URL: <http://lgbtweekly.com/?p=6835>

loading



brought to you by

San Diego Clipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: LGBT Weekly
Publishing Date: April 21, 2011
Circulation: 50,000
Page Number: 32
Article Size: 19 sq inch
Ad Value: \$424.38



Page 1 of 1

Old Globe to stage the prize-winning 'August: Osage County' in May

The Old Globe Theatre is to stage Tracy Letts' award-winning play, *August: Osage County*. Directed by Obie Award winner Sam Gold, the dark comedy runs in the Old Globe Theatre, May 7-June 12.

One of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade, *August: Osage County* won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Tracy Letts' sprawling saga about three generations of an Oklahoma family has drawn comparisons to the work of American dramatists Eugene O'Neill, Sam Shepard and Tennessee Williams.

When their father goes missing, the huge and completely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and sparks fly. Violet, the take-no-prisoners matriarch, struggles for control over a family set to implode over secrets, lies and betrayals.

A large and complex modern-day masterpiece that the *New York Times* hailed as "flat-out, no asterisks and without qualifications, the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years."

The cast of *August: Osage County* features Globe Associate Artists



Lois Markle (second from left) plays matriarch Violet Weston, and (from left) Angela Reed, Kelly McAndrew and Carla Harting her daughters in *August: Osage County*, at The Old Globe.

Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston) and Robin Pearson Rose (Mattie Fae Aiken).

Tickets can be purchased online at TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at 619-23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. ♦

Home / Entertainment / Arts-and-theatre / Theatre

Globe tackles epic family saga 'August: Osage County'

- Story
- Discussion
- Image (3)

Globe tackles epic family saga 'August: Osage County'

By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times - The Californian | Posted: Wednesday, May 4, 2011 7:02 am | Loading... | Print

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

• 0 tweet

•



[Buy this photo](#) The Old Globe cast of "August: Osage County" (from left) Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Haynes Thigpen, Carla Harting, Kimberly Guerrero and Todd Cerveris. Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play runs May 7 - June 12, 2011 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Red-hot New York stage director Sam Gold is on every major theater's short list for staging new plays, so it may seem surprising that Gold flew 2,800 miles away to San Diego to direct a 3-year-old play at the Old Globe Theatre. That is, until you know the play in question is Tracy Letts' dysfunctional family saga "August: Osage County."

Hailed by critics as the best new American play of the decade, the grand-scale dark comedy is precisely the kind of work that appeals to Gold, who the New York Times described last fall as a director keenly able to "walk that tightrope of sharply observed reality while eyeing the mess of human suffering underneath."

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, "August: Osage County" is the story of the deeply flawed Weston family of Pawhuska, Okla. Gathered in the family's three-story home one weekend for the funeral of family patriarch Beverly Weston, the family struggles with issues of drug abuse, suicide, physical violence, emotional abuse, extramarital affairs, molestation, incest, crime and racism. The Tulsa-born Letts ---- whose other plays include "Killer Joe," "Bug" and "Superior Donuts" ---- based the family's cruel, pill-popping matriarch Violet Weston on his grandmother, and his grandfather committed suicide, but the other colorful Westons are entirely fictional.

Gold has made his name directing world premieres (Annie Baker's "Circle Mirror Transformation" and Stephen Belber's "Dusk Rings a Bell"), but he's been dying to direct the classics, and he had his eye on "August: Osage County" for years.

"I've been following Tracy's work for a long time and am a big fan of his plays," Gold said last week. "I had a great feeling of jealousy when I saw the production in New York and I thought, 'What a joy it would be to work on a play like that.'"

Gold said he's drawn to tales of human struggle, and believes that Letts has a particularly fine ear for telling these uniquely American stories.

"He's an actor and that's very apparent in his work," Gold said of Letts. "He really cares about the characters' journeys. This play has 13 people in it, and normally when you have a cast that size, some of the characters are going to become merely functional. But in this play, all 13 are meaty roles and for the actors, it's exciting stuff to play on stage. I feel like a kid in a candy store getting to dive into this material."

The play is epic in every way, with a large cast, a lengthy script (the play runs three hours with two intermissions) and a gargantuan set ---- a three-story cutaway house that's among the largest sets ever built inside the Old Globe Theatre. Gold said wrangling all of these elements into a cohesive, fluid production begins with the design team, particularly the set designed by David Zinn.

"We worked really hard on making a house that felt very real and honest to the story and provided a firm context for all the scenes," Gold said. "Once I know what room in the house everyone's in, it becomes natural to fill that in. The scale is quite large, but I haven't found it particularly uncomfortable."

While the Westons are probably one of the worst examples of an American family, Gold said what has made the play such a success with audiences and critics alike is how well Letts captured the human family dynamic.

"You can say that they're an extreme example of family, but there are extremities within every family," Gold said. "If you dig deep enough into anyone's family, you will find all of the extremes that are contained within this play. I think it's a very detailed portrait of a very specific family, tapping into things that are deeply personal to Tracy."

"August: Osage County"

When: Previews, Saturday through Wednesday; opens May 12 and runs through June 12; showtimes, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays; 1 p.m. Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Where: The Old Globe, Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego

Tickets: \$29-\$85; for mature audiences

Info: 619-234-5623

Web: theoldglobe.org

Copyright 2011 North County Times - The Californian. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Theatre on *Wednesday, May 4, 2011 7:02 am* Updated: 10:43 am. | Tags: Entertainment Preview, Theater,
Share This Story

Discuss Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- Comedian Iglesias wants to be more funny, less 'fluffy'
- THEATER REVIEW: MiraCosta's 'House' is well-cast but comedy is questionable
- THEATER REVIEW: Powerful 'Let Me Down Easy' a tour-de-force for Deavere Smith
- REGION: Old Gobe to stage remount of Tony-nominated 'Scottsboro Boys'
- CALIFORNIAN: ODC Dance joins the arts with community involvement
- OPERA REVIEW: Married opera singers make strong role debuts in 'Faust'
- THEATER REVIEW: Romantic 'Sweet Storm' enjoys poetic turbulence

Sponsored Links



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name:	Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name:	NC Times-Preview Section
Publishing Date:	May 05, 2011
Circulation:	71,847
Page Number:	1
Article Size:	6 sq inch
Ad Value:	\$117.88

Page 1 of 1



THEATER
TRACY LETTS'
"OSAGE COUNTY"
OPENS AT GLOBE
PAGE 15



brought to you by



Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
 Publication Name: NC Times-Preview Section
 Publishing Date: May 05, 2011
 Circulation: 71,847
 Page Number: 15,26
 Article Size: 69 sq inch
 Ad Value: \$1,270.86

Old Globe tackles epic family saga 'August: Osage County'

BY PAM KRAGEN
pkragen@nctimes.com

Red-hot New York stage director Sam Gold is on every major theater's short list for staging new plays, so it may seem surprising that Gold flew 2,800 miles away to San Diego to direct a 3-year-old play at the Old Globe Theatre. That is, until you know the play in question is Tracy Letts' dysfunctional family saga "August: Osage County."

Hailed by critics as the best new American play of the decade, the grand-scale dark comedy is precisely the kind of work that appeals to Gold, who the New York Times described last fall as a director keenly able to "walk that tightrope of sharply observed reality while eyeing the mess of human suffering underneath."

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, "August: Osage County" is the story of the deeply flawed Weston family of Pawhuska, Okla. Gathered in the family's three-story home one weekend for the funeral of family patriarch

"August: Osage County"

WHEN Previews, Saturday through Wednesday; opens May 12 and runs through June 12; showtimes, 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays; 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

WHERE The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego

TICKETS 29-\$85; for mature audiences

INFO 619-234-5623
www.theoldglobe.org

Beverly Weston, the family struggles with issues of drug abuse, suicide, physical violence, emotional abuse, extra-marital affairs, molestation, incest, crime and racism. The Tulsa-born Letts — whose other plays include "Killer Joe," "Bug" and "Superior Donuts" — based the family's cruel, pill-popping matriarch Violet Weston on his grandmother, and his grandfather committed suicide, but the other colorful Westons are entirely fictional.

Gold has made his name directing world premieres (Annie



Director Sam Gold has made a name for himself helming the off Broadway premieres of plays about human foibles. Courtesy photo

Baker's "Circle Mirror Transformation" and Stephen Belber's "Dusk Rings a Bell"), but he's been dying to direct the classics, and he's had his eye on "August: Osage County" for years.

"I've been following Tracy's work for a long time and am a big fan of his plays," Gold said last week. "I had a great feeling of jealousy when I saw the production in New York and I thought, 'What a joy it would

See 'August,' 26



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: NC Times-Preview Section
Publishing Date: May 05, 2011
Circulation: 71,847
Page Number: 15,26
Article Size: 69 sq inch
Ad Value: \$1,270.86

Page 2 of 2



The cast of the Old Globe Theatre's "August: Osage County." Courtesy photo

'August'

Continued from Page 15

be to work on a play like that."

Gold said he's drawn to tales of human struggle, and believes that Letts has a particularly fine ear for telling these uniquely American stories.

"He's an actor and that's very apparent in his work," Gold said of Letts. "He really cares about the characters' journeys."

"This play has 13 people in it, and normally when you have a cast that size, some of the characters are going to become merely functional. But in this play, all 13 are meaty roles and for the actors, it's exciting stuff to play on stage. I feel like a kid in a candy store getting to dive into this material."

The play is epic in every way, with a large cast, a lengthy script (the play runs three hours with two intermissions) and a gargantuan set — a three-story cutaway house that's among the largest sets ever built inside the Old Globe Theatre. Gold said wrangling all

of these elements into a cohesive, fluid production begins with the design team, particularly the set designed by David Zinn.

"We worked really hard on making a house that felt very real and honest to the story and provided a firm context for all the scenes," Gold said. "Once I know what room in the house everyone's in, it becomes natural to fill that in. The scale is quite large, but I haven't found it particularly uncomfortable."

While the Westons are probably one of the worst examples of an American family, Gold said what has made the play such a success with audiences and critics alike is how well Letts captured the human family dynamic.

"You can say that they're an extreme example of family, but there are extremities within every family," Gold said. "If you dig deep enough into anyone's family, you will find all of the extremes that are contained within this play. I think it's a very detailed portrait of a very specific family, tapping into things that are deeply personal to Tracy."



Tracy Letts

County' unfolds at The Old Globe

By **Diana Saenger**

"August: Osage County" is set in Oklahoma where three generations of the Weston family have lived, struggled, got along, not gotten along, and grown. When the patriarch, Beverly, suddenly disappears, there are many mysteries to uncover and secrets to unveil about his disappearance. As the family deals with the horrific occurrence, each scene reveals how they really feel toward one another.



The cast of 'August: Osage County' includes Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Haynes Thigpen, Carla Harting, Kimberly Guerrero and Todd Cerveris in Tracy Letts' Tony Award-winning play. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

The dark, yet sometimes humorous, "August: Osage County" has only been around for a few years but has racked up much audience praise and many awards, including a 2008 Tony Award for Best Play, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Written by Tracy Letts and directed by Obie Award-winner Sam Gold, the play runs through June 12 at the Old Globe Theater in Balboa Park.

Among the cast members are Todd Ceveris and Angela Reed, who graduated from UCSD in the late 1990s. Years later, they began dating and eventually married. The couple has performed together in "Talley's Folly," and the "Spring Awakening" tour that included a San Diego stop. They said they are thrilled to be appearing in "Osage County."

"It's a major work of modern American Theater," said Ceveris who portrays Sheriff Deon Gilbeau. "Audiences around the country have found it a very significant and profound play."

Reed, who plays the eldest daughter of the Weston Family, Barbara Fordham, said the company is aided by a few of the original cast members.

"Kimberly Guerrero, originated the role of Johnna, and played it on Broadway, in Chicago, London and Sydney. We're fortunate to have her and a few others who played replacements on Broadway, including Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken) and Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston)," Reed said. "All of them have been able to offer some insight during difficult moments."

“This play is just brilliant. There’s a lot going on — sometimes at the same time with different characters in different rooms. As an actor I don’t know if I will ever play another role that takes me on a journey like this one has.”

If you go:**What:** “August: Osage County”**When:** Matinees and evenings May 7-June 12**Where:** 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park**Tickets:** \$29-\$85**Contact:** (619) 23-GLOBE**Website:** TheOldGlobe.org

Related posts:

1. [Let’s Review: Laughter spills all through ‘Rafta, Rafta’— a gem of a comedy playing at the Old Globe](#)
2. [La Jolla Playhouse announces fifth show of the season: musical ‘Finding Neverland’](#)
3. [La Jolla Playhouse’s new drama shows lives ‘Ruined’ by war](#)
4. [Handful of surprises in Playhouse’s upcoming season](#)
5. [Engaging cast keeps 'Becky's New Car' cruisin' along](#)

Short URL: <http://www.lajollalight.com/?p=40622>**Share with a Friend:**

Posted by [Staff](#) on May 4 2011. Filed under [A & E](#), [Theater](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#). You can leave a response or trackback to this entry

Comments

[Login](#)

There are no comments posted yet. [Be the first one!](#)

Post a new comment

Comment as a Guest, or login:

Name

Displayed next to your comments.

Email

Not displayed publicly.

Website (optional)

If you have a website, link to it here.

Subscribe to

Submit Comment

SIGNON

SAN DIEGO

NIGHT AND DAY



NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OBITS OPINION LIFESTYLE NIGHT & DAY VISIT SD TRAVEL RADIO DEALS

WEATHER 68° F TRAFFIC WEBCAMS **HOT TOPICS:** BIN LADEN | NFL DRAFT | PADRES



Theater & Performing Arts

THEATER NEWS PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS VISUAL ARTS EVENTS

Like

6 likes. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

EMAIL

PRINT

SAVE

0

Share

6

8



Theater preview: Laughs leaven dark 'August' days

The Old Globe gives new life to Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-winning tragicomedy

BY JAMES HEBERT

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011 AT 11:56 A.M.

On a recent weekday at the [Old Globe Theatre](#), the disembodied top floor of a three-story home dangled high above the stage, waiting to be fitted with its foundation.

The house that hosts the Globe production of “[August: Osage County](#)” is so massive that the



/ HENRY DIROCCO

theater had to tear out some stage structures to create enough vertical space for it. Yet in a way, the effort seems beside the point, because the play itself promises to raise the roof.

And not necessarily in a jolly way.

[Tracy Letts](#)' epic family saga, winner of the [Pulitzer Prize](#) in 2008 and a long-running Broadway hit, comes to the Balboa Park theater packing a well-deserved rep for transgression in the name of entertainment. It's a three-act, three-hour-plus pulp opus about an Oklahoma household shot through with drug abuse, infidelity, sexual misconduct and all manner of sheer meanness.

The kicker: A lot of people call it a comedy.

"It is filled with laughter," says [Robert Foxworth](#), the [Old Globe](#) associate artist who portrays the work's battered patriarch, Beverly Weston. "It is one of the funniest American plays ever. But it's that real, genuine humor that comes out of someplace really deep. Sometimes you'll find yourself even eating your laugh. Like, 'Oh my God, did I laugh at that?'"

"And I think it's funny in the way that we laugh when we recognize ourselves and our family. It evokes memory and recall. Not that I know anyone who has a family like this one. But it sparks things."

In "August," much of that sparking comes courtesy of the chain-smoking, pill-popping Violet, Beverly's wife and a witheringly dismissive mom to their three daughters. Also on hand are various husbands and other family members; they've all come to the homestead to stand vigil for the missing Beverly, who appears in the play only for a short prologue.

The original production of "August: Osage County" went up in 2007 at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, where Letts (previously known for such works as "Killer Joe," "Bug" and "Man From Nebraska") is a longtime ensemble member. Its subsequent Broadway staging won five [Tony Awards](#), including best play, and spawned a U.S. tour.

The cast of "August: Osage County," the Pulitzer Prize-winning play whose Old Globe production is being staged by the hot New York director Sam Gold.

DETAILS

"August: Osage County"

Old Globe Theatre

When: Previews begin Saturday. Opens May 12.
Schedule: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays (no matinee June 4); 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays (no matinee today); plus 1 p.m. June 1. Through June 12.

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

The Globe's production is an entirely new one by the rising New York director [Sam Gold](#) ("Circle Mirror Transformation") and features Lois Markle as Violet. Besides Foxworth, she's joined by Globe associate artist Robin Pearson Rose, as well as Carla Harting (seen recently in "Becky's New Car" at North Coast Rep), Joseph Adams, Guy Boyd, Todd Cerveris, Kimberly Guerrero, Ronete Levenson, Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Angela Reed and Haynes Thigpen.

Foxworth, a Broadway veteran who now lives in Encinitas, happens to know the play inside and out. He spent six months in the Broadway production starting in June 2008, in the role of Charlie Aiken, a brother-in-law of Beverly's.

Now he's in a part that amounts to perhaps 10 minutes of stage time — and he couldn't be happier.

On Broadway, Foxworth recalls, "I would be offstage every night listening to (Beverly's) prologue," which came shortly before his first scene. "I thought, someday I'd like to do that role."

The part may be fleeting, but as Foxworth observes, "They talk about (Beverly) constantly. What could be better? And he grows in stature as they talk about him."

The puzzle over where Beverly has gone is just one of the play's points of intrigue, says Markle, whose Broadway career stretches back to the early 1960s.

"It's a play of a lot of mysteries," Markle says. "I just think the reason it was so welcomed by (audiences) is that it seems to be people you know, and it isn't. They all have secrets. One of the lines I say in the play is, 'Secret crushes, secret schemes.'"

"The people are ordinary. The play is not."

To Gold, that sense of the familiar interwoven with the peculiar — and even perverse — gets to the heart of why he wanted to do the piece.

"I really responded, when I read the play, to how deeply true and resonant this family is," Gold says. "Every detail of every character reminds you of your own family in a very particular way, and in another way, it's a play about the American family in a broader sense."

"I got excited about putting something onstage that felt very recognizable and very real."

In order to convey the precise sense of "what a family in crisis feels like," Gold felt he had to get to know the play's world a bit better. So he and set designer David Zinn traveled to its real-life setting of Pawhuska, Okla., about 50 miles from Letts' hometown of Tulsa.

"I'm from New York, so I don't have a lot of experience with that part of the country, and I wanted to get familiar with the landscape," says Gold. "Things as specific as how incredibly loud the cicadas are in Oklahoma. (Although) if you put that onstage, people wouldn't believe it. It would drown everything out."

The two also went on a house tour there, and settled on “a very specific Craftsman (home)” as the model for the Globe set.

Gold has drawn on one additional primary source — the playwright himself.

Letts “has been very cool about it,” the director says of their conversations. “He’s very interested in seeing (the play) with fresh eyes.” (Gold adds that Letts probably will come to a Globe performance.)

And as for those fresh eyes: Gold says he’s not intimidated in the least at the task of taking this hugely acclaimed play and, like that towering house, building a fresh retelling from the ground up.

“The plays live forever and the productions don’t,” he says. “The text is where it all starts.”

jim.hebert@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-2040 • Twitter [@jimhebert](https://twitter.com/jimhebert) • Facebook facebook.com/houseseats





brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Union-Tribune
Publishing Date: May 08, 2011
Circulation: 408,825
Page Number: 1,4
Article Size: 82 sq inch
Ad Value: \$12,743.13

Page 1 of 2

'AUGUST' BRINGS DARK DAYS

Pulitzer-winning tragicomedy about a family in crisis gets a new staging at the Old Globe

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

On a recent weekday at the Old Globe Theatre, the disembodied top floor of a three-story home dangled high above the stage, waiting to be fitted with its foundation.

The house that hosts the Globe production of "August: Osage County" is so massive that the theater had to tear out some stage structures to create enough vertical space for it. Yet in a way, the effort seems beside the point, because the play itself

promises to raise the roof.

And not necessarily in a jolly way. Tracy Letts' epic family saga, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2008 and a long-running Broadway hit, comes to the Balboa Park theater packing a well-deserved rep for transgression in the name of entertainment. It's a three-act, three-hour-plus pulp opus about an Oklahoma household shot through with drug abuse, infidelity, sexual misconduct and all manner of sheer meanness.

SEE 'AUGUST' • E4



Sam Gold will direct "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe.

COURTESY OF THE OLD GLOBE



"August: Osage County"

Old Globe Theatre

When: In previews. Opens May 12. Schedule: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays (no matinee June 4); 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays (no matinee today); plus 1 p.m. June 1. Through June 12.

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85 **Phone:** (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

The Old Globe cast of "August: Osage County," from left: Kimberly Guerrero, Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Carla Harting, Haynes Thigpen and Todd Cerveris. HENRY DIROCCO

The above material first appeared in the San Diego Union-Tribune on the above date.

All copyrights are reserved and no further reproduction is allowed without permission of the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
 Publication Name: San Diego Union-Tribune
 Publishing Date: May 08, 2011
 Circulation: 408,825
 Page Number: 1,4
 Article Size: 82 sq inch
 Ad Value: \$12,743.13

'AUGUST' • Director, set designer traveled to Oklahoma to take notes

FROM E1

The kicker: A lot of people call it a comedy.

"It is filled with laughter," says Robert Foxworth, the *Old Globe* associate artist who portrays the work's battered patriarch, Beverly Weston. "It is one of the funniest American plays ever. But it's that real, genuine humor that comes out of someplace really deep. Sometimes you'll find yourself even eating your laugh. Like, 'Oh my God, did I laugh at that?'"

"And I think it's funny in the way that we laugh when we recognize ourselves and our family. It evokes memory and recall. Not that I know anyone who has a family like this one. But it sparks things."

In "August," much of that sparking comes courtesy of the chain-smoking, pill-popping Violet, Beverly's wife and a witheringly dismissive mom to their three daughters. Also on hand are various husbands and other family members; they've all come to the homestead to stand vigil for the missing Beverly, who appears only in a short prologue.

The original production of "August: Osage County" went up in 2007 at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, where Letts (known for "Killer Joe," "Bug" and "Man From Nebraska") is a longtime ensemble member. Its Broadway staging won five Tony Awards, including best play, and spawned a U.S. tour.

The Globe's production is an entirely new one by the rising New York director Sam Gold ("Circle Mirror Transformation") and features Lois Markle as Violet. Besides Foxworth, she's joined by Globe associate artist Robin Pearson Rose, as well as Carla Harting

("Becky's New Car" at North Coast Rep), Joseph Adams, Guy Boyd, Todd Cerveris, Kimberly Guerrero, Ronete Levenson, Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Angela Reed and Haynes Thigpen.

Foxworth, a Broadway veteran who now lives in Encinitas, knows the play inside and out. He spent six months in the Broadway production starting in June 2008, in the role of Charlie Aiken, a brother-in-law of Beverly's.

Now he's in a part that amounts to perhaps 10 minutes of stage time — and he couldn't be happier.

On Broadway, Foxworth recalls, "I would be offstage every night listening to (Beverly's) prologue," which came shortly before his first scene. "I thought, someday I'd like to do that role."

The part may be fleeting, but as Foxworth observes, "They talk about (Beverly) constantly. What could be better? And he grows in stature as they talk about him."

The puzzle over where Beverly has gone is just one of the play's points of intrigue, says Markle, whose Broadway career stretches back to the early 1960s.

"It's a play of a lot of mysteries," Markle says. "I just think the reason it was so welcomed by (audiences) is that it seems to be people you know, and it isn't. They all have secrets. One of the lines I say in the play is, 'Secret crushes, secret schemes.'"

"The people are ordinary. The play is not."

To Gold, that sense of the familiar interwoven with the peculiar — and even perverse — gets to the heart of why he wanted to do the piece.

"I really responded, when

I read the play, to how deeply true and resonant this family is," Gold says. "Every detail of every character reminds you of your own family in a very particular way, and in another way, it's a play about the American family in a broader sense."

To convey the precise sense of "what a family in crisis feels like," Gold felt he had to get to know the play's world a bit better. So he and set designer David Zinn traveled to Pawhuska, Okla., about 50 miles from Letts' hometown of Tulsa.

"I'm from New York, so I don't have a lot of experience with that part of the country, and I wanted to get familiar with the landscape," Gold says. "Things as specific as how incredibly loud the cicadas are in Oklahoma. (Although) if you put that onstage, people wouldn't believe it. It would drown everything out."

The two also went on a house tour there, and settled on "a very specific Craftsman (home)" as the model for the Globe set.

Gold has drawn on one additional primary source — the playwright himself.

Letts "has been very cool about it," the director says of their conversations. "He's very interested in seeing (the play) with fresh eyes." (Gold adds that Letts probably will come to a Globe performance.)

Gold says he's not intimidated in the least at the task of taking this hugely acclaimed play and, like that towering house, building a fresh retelling from the ground up.

"The plays live forever and the productions don't," he says. "The text is where it all starts."

jim.hebert@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-2040 • Twitter @jimhebert

Sign In |

Entertainment :: Theatre

"August" Comes Early At the Old Globe

by Lisa Linsev

1 / 1

PRINT

EMAIL

SHARE

COMMENTS (0)



San Diego's Old Globe and Obie Award-winning Director Sam Gold brings us Tracy Letts' dark comedy August: Osage County, one of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade. It won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and has drawn comparisons to the work of great American Dramatists Eugene O'Neill, Sam Shepard and Tennessee Williams. The Rage Monthly caught up with Gold to learn more about this upcoming show at The Globe.

When did you first read the script or see the play August: Osage County? What was your reaction to it?

I saw the final dress rehearsal on Broadway. I did not read it until Lou Spisto, The Old Globe's Executive Producer, asked me to direct it here. Seeing it live it blew me away. It was three and a half hours that went by in a second. I felt jealousy to not be involved, it is a work that is so ambitious and so great for actors and very rare in the American theatre.

Tell me about the play's plot line.

It's the story of the Weston Family in Tushka, Oklahoma. Due to a tragedy, the family all comes together in their childhood home. In specifics, you are seeing a very well drawn family under the pressures of a tough personal moment, a moment that will make them seem familiar, like every family. It has reverberations on so many levels; it reflects in a thousand different directions.

How involved were you in the casting of this play?

Samantha Barrie did the casting and she is excellent, we have worked long and hard to bring this family together. I have admired the actors in this show for a long time and I have known many of them a long time. But I have never worked with any of them before; we're all meeting over material and becoming a family over the material.

What's it like to bring the play to life?

We just finished our second week of rehearsals, so we're exactly half way. This is one of those plays that is a feast for actors; they light up from the material, it is exhausting and exhilarating. We dove into the play in a voracious way-fast and hard; at the end of the day no one wants to stop. We are so inside the experience; from moment to moment, the play is truthful, authentic, exciting, entertaining. It keeps you wrapped up in it.

This is set in modern times; will it feel like 2011 or more like 1995?



Popular Stories



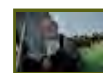
Real Wor his porn

Mar 20

Dustin Zito ca
with a secret
didn't take lo

@ the IR 2011

Apr 29

Boston's thea
Monday for the annual IRN
there!

Le Quatt

By Kilian Mello

Le Quattro V
the style of o
Sweetgrass and Into Grea

It was written in 2008, it will not feel anything other than contemporary. There is mention of a mortgage crisis; which places it in time in an interesting, fortune teller way because that is happening right now.

Interesting. If audience members wanted to see a play, movie or book in a similar vein to August: Osage County, what would you recommend?

The great American dramatists: Eugene O'Neil, Edward Albee, Arthur Miller. They created visions of America on the macroscopic scale and dealt with family issues on a microscopic scale. The drama affecting the family reflects the drama faced by America.

Tell me about the work you did prior to winning an Obie.

It was a very productive and exciting time working with Annie Baker on Circle Mirror Transformation (Playwrights Horizons) and The Aliens (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater). We found that we shared vocabulary and tastes; it was a smooth and exciting collaboration. To see it recognized is a very grounding experience. When things go right, people can tell and people respond to it, giving you something to aim for in future collaborations.

If someone gave you carte blanche freedom to direct any play, which play would you choose?

Pet projects of mine, things I've had in my mind for ten years, things I have been dying to do. A few of those things have fallen into place, in a row. This year I get to direct Ibsen & Chekov plays with their realism and sub-textual acting; late 19th-century dramas. Also John Osborne's Look Back in Anger, it has real influence, danger and rage; it taps into being young. This is all coming together, for me, at a very serendipitous time.

Would you say dark comedy is your niche as a director?

Not so much dark comedy, but I'm looking for depth of character. I am really into plays that give actors a meal, where they get to mime tough and real circumstances. The darker areas of the heart and the soul are meatier. I also look at the play's sense of humor, I wouldn't do it if it didn't have a sense of humor.

August: Osage County

Runs May 7 to June 12 at the Old Globe Theatre. For tickets and more information call 619.234.5623. Join us Friday, May 27 for OUT AT THE GLOBE: An evening for LGBT theater lovers with a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers and door prizes. Visit theoldglobe.org/events for more details.



Copyright Rage Monthly. For more articles from Rage visit www.ragemonthly.com

Like

0

Comments

Add New Comment

Comments on Facebook



Follow EDGE

Stay up to date with br
interviews, giveaways



EDGE Media I

Like

2
fr



EDGE News/E

EDGE Nightlif



Enter your er
daily email up

Enter email h



"THE MOST EXCITING NEW AMERICAN PLAY IN YEARS" COMES TO THE OLD GLOBE

San Diego's Old Globe and Obie Award-winning Director Sam Gold brings us Tracy Letts' dark comedy **August: Osage County**, one of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade. It won the **2008 Tony Award for Best Play** and the **Pulitzer Prize for Drama**, and has drawn comparisons to the work of great American Dramatists Eugene O'Neill, Sam Shepard and Tennessee Williams. *The Rage Monthly* caught up with Gold to learn more about this upcoming show at The Globe.

When did you first read the script or see the play *August: Osage County*?

What was your reaction to it?

I saw the final dress rehearsal on Broadway. I did not read it until Lou Spisto, The Old Globe's Executive Producer, asked me to direct it here. Seeing it live it blew me away. It was three and a half hours that went by in a second. I felt jealousy to not be involved, it is a work that is so ambitious and so great for actors and very rare in the American theatre.

Tell me about the play's plot line.

It's the story of the Weston Family in Tushka, Oklahoma. Due to a tragedy, the family all comes together in their childhood home. In specifics, you are seeing a very well drawn family under the pressures of a tough personal moment, a moment that will make them seem familiar, like every family. It has reverberations on so many levels; it reflects in a thousand different directions.

How involved were you in the casting of this play?

Samantha Barrie did the casting and she is excellent, we have worked long and hard to bring this family together. I have admired the actors in this show for a long time and I have known many of them a long time. But I have never worked with any of them before; we're all meeting over material and becoming a family over the material.

What's it like to bring the play to life?

We just finished our second week of rehearsals, so we're exactly half way. This is one of those plays that is a feast for actors; they light up from the material, it is exhausting and exhilarating. We dove into the play in a veracious way—fast and hard; at the end of the day no one wants to stop. We are so inside the experience; from moment to moment, the play is truthful, authentic, exciting, entertaining. It keeps you wrapped up in it.

This is set in modern times; will it feel like 2011 or more like 1995?

It was written in 2008, it will not feel anything other than contemporary. There is mention of a mortgage crisis; which places it in time in an interesting, fortune teller way because that is happening right now.

Interesting. If audience members wanted to see a play, movie or book in a similar vein to *August*:

***Osage County*, what would you recommend?**

The great American dramatists: Eugene O'Neil, Edward Albee, Arthur Miller. They created visions of America on the macroscopic scale and dealt with family issues on a microscopic scale. The drama affecting the family reflects the drama faced by America.

Tell me about the work you did prior to winning an Obie.

It was a very productive and exciting time working with Annie Baker on *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Playwrights Horizons) and *The Aliens* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater). We found that we shared vocabulary and tastes; it was a smooth and exciting collaboration. To see it recognized is a very grounding experience. When things go right, people can tell and people respond to it, giving you something to aim for in future collaborations.

If someone gave you carte blanche freedom to direct any play, which play would you choose?

Pet projects of mine, things I've had in my mind for ten years, things I have been dying to do. A few of those things have fallen into place, in a row. This year I get to direct Ibsen & Chekov plays with their realism and sub-textual acting; late 19th-century dramas. Also John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, it has real influence, danger and rage; it taps into being young. This is all coming together, for me, at a very serendipitous time.

Would you say dark comedy is your niche as a director?

Not so much dark comedy, but I'm looking for depth of character. I am really into plays that give actors a meal, where they get to mime tough and real circumstances. The darker areas of the heart and the soul are meatier. I also look at the play's sense of humor, I wouldn't do it if it didn't have a sense of humor.

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

Runs May 7 to June 12 at the Old Globe Theatre. For tickets and more information call 619.234.5623.

Join us Friday, May 27 for OUT AT THE GLOBE: An evening for LGBT theater lovers with a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers and door prizes. Visit theoldglobe.org/events for more details.

"We dove into the play in a veracious way—fast and hard; at the end of the day no one wants to stop. We are so inside the experience; from moment to moment, the play is truthful, authentic, exciting, entertaining. It keeps you wrapped up in it. //



- [HOME](#)
- [EVENTS CALENDAR](#)
 - [EVENTS](#)
 - [SUBMIT EVENT](#)
- [PHOTOS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [ADVERTISE](#)
- [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- [CONTACT](#)



enter search terms



You are here: [Home](#) » [San Diego](#) » “THE MOST EXCITING NEW AMERICAN PLAY IN YEARS” COMES TO THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE

“THE MOST EXCITING NEW AMERICAN PLAY IN YEARS” COMES TO THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE

[0] May 12, 2011 | [All The Rage](#)

[Like](#) [Sign Up to see what your friends like.](#)



San Diego's Old Globe and Obie Award-winning Director Sam Gold brings us Tracy

Letts' dark comedy **August: Osage County**, one of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade. It won the **2008 Tony Award for Best Play** and the **Pulitzer Prize for Drama**, and has drawn comparisons to the work of great American Dramatists Eugene O'Neill, Sam Shepard and Tennessee Williams. **The Rage Monthly** caught up with Gold to learn more about this upcoming show at The Globe.

When did you first read the script or see the play *August: Osage County*? What was your reaction to it?

I saw the final dress rehearsal on Broadway. I did not read it until Lou Spisto, The Old Globe's Executive Producer, asked me to direct it here. Seeing it live it blew me away. It was three and a half hours that went by in a second. I felt jealousy to not be involved, it is a work that is so ambitious and so great for actors and very rare in the American theatre.

Tell me about the play's plot line.

It's the story of the Weston Family in Tushka, Oklahoma. Due to a tragedy, the family all comes together in their childhood home. In specifics, you are seeing a very well drawn family under the pressures of a tough personal moment, a moment that will make them seem familiar, like every family. It has reverberations on so many levels; it reflects in a thousand different directions.

How involved were you in the casting of this play?

Samantha Barrie did the casting and she is excellent, we have worked long and hard to bring this family together. I have admired the actors in this show for a long time and I have known many of them a long time. But I have never worked with any of them before; we're all meeting over material and becoming a family over the material.



Director Sam Gold

What's it like to bring the play to life?

We just finished our second week of rehearsals, so we're exactly half way. This is one of those plays that is a feast for actors; they light up from the material, it is exhausting and exhilarating.

We dove into the play in a voracious way—fast and hard; at the end of the day no one wants to stop. We are so inside the experience; from moment to moment, the play is truthful, authentic, exciting, entertaining. It keeps you wrapped up in it.

This is set in modern times; will it feel like 2011 or more like 1995?

It was written in 2008, it will not feel anything other than contemporary. There is mention of a mortgage crisis; which places it in time in an interesting, fortune teller way because that is happening right now.

Interesting. If audience members wanted to see a play, movie or book in a similar vein to *August: Osage County*, what would you recommend?

The great American dramatists: Eugene O'Neill, Edward Albee, Arthur Miller. They created visions of America on the macroscopic scale and dealt with family issues on a microscopic scale. The drama affecting the family reflects the drama faced by America.

Tell me about the work you did prior to winning an Obie.

It was a very productive and exciting time working with Annie Baker on *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Playwrights Horizons) and *The Aliens* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater). We found that we shared vocabulary and tastes; it was a smooth and exciting collaboration. To see it recognized is a very grounding experience. When things go right, people can tell and people respond to it, giving you something to aim for in future collaborations.

If someone gave you carte blanche freedom to direct any play, which play would you choose?

Pet projects of mine, things I've had in my mind for ten years, things I have been dying to do. A few of those things have fallen into place, in a row. This year I get to direct Ibsen & Chekov plays with their realism and sub-textual acting; late 19th-century dramas. Also John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, it has real influence, danger and rage; it taps into being young. This is all coming together, for me, at a very serendipitous time.

Would you say dark comedy is your niche as a director?

Not so much dark comedy, but I'm looking for depth of character. I am really into plays that give actors a meal, where they get to mime tough and real circumstances. The darker areas of the heart and the soul are meatier. I also look at the play's sense of humor, I wouldn't do it if it didn't have a sense of humor.



August: Osage County

Runs May 7 to June 12 at the Old Globe Theatre. For tickets and more information call 619.234.5623 or visit theoldglobe.com

Join us Friday, May 27 for OUT AT THE GLOBE: An evening for LGBT theater lovers with a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers and door prizes. Visit theoldglobe.org/events for more details.

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like:

Related posts:

1. ['LIFE IS A CABARET' AT SAN DIEGO'S CYGNET THEATRE](#)
2. [IT'S A HIT! CYGNET THEATRE EXTENDS CABARET](#)
3. [NICK CEARLEY MAKES US SING IN DIVERSIONARY THEATRE'S ONE-MAN ROCK SHOW](#)
4. [30 YEARS OF MUSICAL CREATIVITY – STEVE GUSTAFSON OF 10,000 MANIACS](#)
5. [AMERICAN IDOL ALUM DIANA DEGARMO STARS IN '9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL' AT ORANGE COUNTY'S SEGERSTROM HALL](#)

Category: [San Diego](#)

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Solana Beach Sun
Publishing Date: May 05, 2011
Circulation: 00
Page Number: 17
Article Size: 54 sq inch
Ad Value: \$0.00

Pulitzer Prize-winning drama 'August: Osage County' unfolds

BY DIANA SAENGER
Contributor

"August: Osage County" is set in Oklahoma where three generations of the Weston family have lived, struggled, got along, not gotten along, and grown. When the patriarch, Beverly, suddenly disappears, there are many mysteries to uncover and secrets to unveil about his disappearance. As the family deals with the horrific occurrence, each scene reveals how they really feel toward one another.

The dark, yet sometimes humorous, "August: Osage County" has only been around for a few years but has racked up much audience praise and many awards, including a 2008 Tony Award for Best Play, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Written by Tracy Letts and directed by Obba Babadundun, the play runs through June 12 at the Old Globe Theater in Balboa Park.

Among the cast members are Todd Cerveris and Angela Reed, who graduated

If you go

What: "August: Osage County"
When: Matinees and evenings May 7-June 12
Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
Tickets: \$29-\$85
Contact: (619) 23-GLOBE
Website: TheOldGlobe.org

ed from UCSD in the late 1990s. Years later, they began dating and eventually married. The couple has performed together in "Talley's Folly," and the "Spring Awakening" tour that included a San Diego stop. They said they are thrilled to be appearing in "Osage County."

"It's a major work of modern American Theater," said Cerveris who portrays Sheriff Deon Gilbeau. "Audiences around the country have found it a very significant and profound play."

Reed, who plays the eldest daughter of the Weston Family, Barbara Fordham, said the company is aided by a few of the original cast members.

"Kimberly Guerrero, originated the role of Johnna, and played it on Broadway, in Chicago, London and Sydney. We're fortunate to have her and a few others who played replacements on Broadway, including Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken) and Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston)," Reed said. "All of them have been able to offer some insight during difficult moments."

"This play is just brilliant. There's a lot going on — sometimes

at the same time with different characters in different rooms. As an actor I don't know if I will ever play another role that takes me on a journey like this one has."

The cast of 'August: Osage County' includes Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Haynes Thigpen, Carla Harting, Kimberly Guerrero and Todd Cerveris in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

PHOTO BY HENRY DIROCCO



Pat Launer on Theater: Festival of Dysfunctional Families

Posted by [mannycruz](#) on May 14, 2011 · [Leave a Comment](#)



So if, as they say, 98 percent of American families are dysfunctional, what the heck constitutes a functional family? You won't be finding out in this month's theater offerings: two black comedies that darkly underline the 'fun' in dysfunctional.

Disappearing Dad



The Weston women of "Osage County," from left, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Kelly McAndrew, Carla Harting. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

At the Old Globe, there's one of the most acclaimed plays of the past decade: Tracy Letts' "August: Osage County," winner of the Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (2009). You really shouldn't miss it; but watch out. There's so much verbal violence and mean-spirited mudslinging, you're likely to feel caught in the crossfire. When the relatives go at it, you'd better duck.

The brash, bold epic is as scorching as the Oklahoma season of its setting. We watch, in horror and delight (between barbs, it's very funny), we watch a family come together and come apart.

We first meet the pater familias of the Weston clan, a drunken, dissipated poet and professor, who's hiring a young Native American woman to care for his spouse. They've struck a bargain in their marriage, he confesses: "My wife takes pills and I drink." Next thing we know, he's disappeared, and three generations of kin turn up — three daughters with mates and kids in tow, as well as an aunt, uncle and cousin — descending on the homestead to comfort the doddering mom, a monstrous, drug-addled matriarch who isn't too far gone to inflict some serious damage on her relations.

The philosophy of this toxically brutal crew can be summed up in one line, spit out by the eldest daughter, Barbara: "Thank God we can't tell the future. Or we'd never get out of bed."

That ferocious sibling is played by Angela Reed, a UCSD MFA alumna (1996), whose husband, Todd Cerveris, another graduate of UCSD (1997), is also in the cast. (A third UCSD alum, Carla Harting, returns to San Diego for this production, too).

"It's a really brilliant cast," says Reed of the 13 talents marshaled by Obie Award-winning director Sam Gold.

“When I first saw the show in New York, I thought it was absolutely amazing. And I thought, ‘Maybe some day I’ll get to play Barbara.’ Of all the crazy characters, I feel she’s closest to me.

“I love how strong she is, so tough. But we also see the vulnerability beneath. With this kind of journey — rage and grief and so much loss (her father, her marriage), there’s still unbelievable humor. She’s angry and sarcastic and filled with rage. But she’s also funny as hell. I’m so looking forward to all the audience gasps and ‘Oh no!’ reactions. You just can’t watch this play without a verbal response.”

Some of that may be due to the astonishing array of addictions and aberrations that get trotted out. In addition to the aforementioned substance abuse, there’s cancer, adultery, divorce, pedophilia and incest. This is Soap Opera on a grand, expansive, delicious and mind-boggling scale.

“It could be a ridiculous farce,” Reed admits. “But there are so many layers. These are real people, in a real household. A lot of it is very, very dark. Incredible secrets keep coming out. They happen to be outrageous, but they’re real. This is not some farcical rollercoaster. These are believable people in crazy circumstances.

“Sam (director Sam Gold) deserves all the amazing buzz he’s gotten. San Diego is very very lucky to have him here. He may never direct outside New York again. His goal is to find the truth in every moment. We’re all having a really good time with it.

“Barbara (my character) is ferocious. It’s an exhausting journey every night, filled with extremes. I get a real workout, mentally, physically and emotionally. But with a play so well written, you get so much back. It buoys you; it’s exhilarating. This play has 13 fabulous roles, every one of them a well-drawn, three-dimensional character. Everyone has a moment, that allows glimpses into their hearts and minds.

“It’s huge, which is difficult for theaters these days, but if it weren’t so brilliant, it wouldn’t be done. People feel so strongly about it. Many think, and I agree, that Tracy Letts and this play will become part of the canon of Great American Playwrights, alongside (Eugene) O’Neill and (Tennessee) Williams. It will be studied.

“It’s set in Oklahoma because that’s as close to the center of America as you can get. There are many metaphors for the state of the country. Amid the shock and laughter and amazement, everyone will find something to relate to.”

“August: Osage County” plays at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park, May 7-June 12. 619-23-GLOBE; www.theoldglobe.org.

Another Crazy Family from Chicago



Karson St. John as the
boozed-up daughter of a
suicidal dad, making her way



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Carmel Valley News
Publishing Date: May 05, 2011
Circulation: 16,980
Page Number: 17
Article Size: 54 sq inch
Ad Value: \$434.54

Page 1 of 2

Pulitzer Prize-winning drama 'August: Osage County' unfolds

BY DIANA SAENGER

Contributor

"August: Osage County" is set in Oklahoma where three generations of the Weston family have lived, struggled, got along, not gotten along, and grown. When the patriarch, Beverly, suddenly disappears, there are many mysteries to uncover and secrets to unveil about his disappearance. As the family deals with the horrific occurrence, each scene reveals how they really feel toward one another.

The dark, yet sometimes humorous, "August: Osage County" has only been around for a few years but has racked up much audience praise and many awards, including a 2008 Tony Award for Best Play, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Written by Tracy Letts and directed by Obie Award-winner Sam Gold, the play runs through June 12 at the Old Globe Theater in Balboa Park.

Among the cast members are Todd Ceveris and Angela Reed, who graduat-

If you go

What: "August: Osage County"

When: Matinees and evenings May 7-June 12

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: \$29-\$85

Contact: (619) 23-GLOBE

Website: TheOldGlobe.org

ed from UCSD in the late 1990s. Years later, they began dating and eventually married. The couple has performed together in "Talley's Folly," and the "Spring Awakening" tour that included a San Diego stop. They said they are thrilled to be appearing in "Osage County."

"It's a major work of modern American Theater," said Ceveris who portrays Sheriff Deon Gilbeau. "Audiences around the country have found it a very significant and profound play."



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Carmel Valley News
Publishing Date: May 05, 2011
Circulation: 16,980
Page Number: 17
Article Size: 54 sq inch
Ad Value: \$434.54

Page 2 of 2

Reed, who plays the eldest daughter of the Weston Family, Barbara Fordham, said the company is aided by a few of the original cast members.

"Kimberly Guerrero, originated the role of Johnna, and played it on Broadway, in Chicago, London and Sydney. We're fortunate to have her and a few others who played replacements on Broadway, including Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken) and Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston)," Reed said. "All of them have been able to offer some insight during difficult moments.

"This play is just brilliant. There's a lot going on — sometimes

at the same time with different characters in different rooms. As an actor I don't know if I will ever play another role that takes me on a journey like this one has."

The cast of 'August: Osage County' includes Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Haynes Thigpen, Carla Harting, Kimberly Guerrero and Todd Cerveris in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

PHOTO BY HENRY DIROCCO.



BLOGS | THEATER & CLASSICAL MUSIC

By Design

R

By Jeff Smith | Posted May 17, 2011, 12:20 p.m.

In theory, a set should never dominate a production. It should and give focus to the actors. At first glance, David Zinn's set for *County* at the Old Globe breaks the rule. It looks like a giant g minus a third box on the top row. A huge, hundred-year-old h middle, occupies most of the proscenium. Except for a porch, nothing else to look at.

The set appears to dominate, at first, but as the play unfolds, i It bullies visually the way the characters, especially drug-addl each other (Japhy Weideman's lighting adds to the fickle moo blackouts and cross-fades that snap like summer lightning).

I was curious to see how other productions of Tracy Letts's Pu did the design. Compared to Zinn's, the others look abstract a has the house in only the middle third of the stage, a skinny s "Gothic" look; two others suggest various rooms but leave the c open, with three playing spaces but no walls. The difference is The other sets suggest claustrophobia but also provide relief. ' and sweltering August in Northern Oklahoma, offers no way c





Photos by Henry DiRocco.

MORE JEFF SMITH | MORE THEATER & CLASSICAL MUSIC
SUBSCRIBE TO THIS BLOG



COMMENTS

No Comments

You must be a registered member to post comments.

Not a member? Sign up [here!](#)



"Late nights rehearsing in Shiley [Theatre] with my friends are some of the best memories I have of college."

Kelly McAndrew

Actress Kelly McAndrew '94 graduated from USD with a major in English and a minor in theatre arts. As an undergraduate, McAndrew performed in a number of mainstage plays, and when she wasn't in the cast she worked behind the scenes, directing, stage managing and even writing. Communication studies professor Kristin Moran, PhD, was McAndrew's college roommate, and assisted with McAndrew's productions in their senior year. "Kelly, of course, has natural talent and you could see her begin to develop it while we were in college," Moran said, "but she took that ability and studied hard to become a professional actor. I don't think there has been a time since she graduated that she hasn't been working and that is an amazing feat given the nature of the industry."

[Tell us about your role in "August: Osage County," which opened May 7 at the Old Globe.](#)

I play Karen Weston in August: Osage County. She is the youngest daughter of Beverly and Violet Weston and has just returned home to Pawhuska, OK for the first time in a long time. She now lives in Miami with her new fiancé, Steve, and is involved in real estate out there. When we first meet her she is talking (and continues to talk for many pages) about how happy she is. One can only imagine the curve ball that's most likely coming her way.



"If you love it, stick with it. If you love it, put yourself out there. Be willing to be rejected, because people will tell you "no" an awful lot in this business. And practice, practice, practice, practice. I learn new things about acting, about technique, about myself on every single job I do."

Kelly McAndrew

[The play has won a Tony and a Pulitzer! Why do you think it resonates with audiences so well?](#)

The play, simply put, is remarkable. It's a family drama, it's a tragi-comedy, it is gut-bustingly funny, and above all it resonates such truth about humanity. I adore this play. I was fortunate enough to read it years

How long have you been performing professionally? Did you perform as an undergrad?

I was very fortunate to get cast in a couple of amazing plays ("Skylight" by David Hare and "How I Learned to Drive" by Paula Vogel) at a wonderful Small Professional Theatre in Kansas City, the Unicorn Theatre, right after receiving my MFA in Acting at UMKC (1998). And I've been working professionally in New York and at regional theatres ever since. I am very lucky to have made my living solely as an actor for almost ten years.

And yes, I performed as an undergrad. It's all I wanted to do! I did the main stage shows and if I didn't get cast I would stage-manage or assistant direct. And when the main stage shows weren't going on, I would produce or direct or act in student-created productions. I even wrote my own one-woman show as a thesis performance. Marilyn Bennett, the head of the program when I was there, gave us the freedom and the confidence to try and make as much theatre as possible. Late nights rehearsing in Shiley [Theatre] with my friends are some of the best memories I have of college.



"The play, simply put, is remarkable. It's a family drama, it's a tragi-comedy, it is gut-bustingly funny, and above all it resonates such truth about humanity....I feel so lucky to be working on it."

Kelly McAndrew

What is your advice to undergraduates who would like to pursue a career in performance art?

If you love it, stick with it. If you love it, put yourself out there. Be willing to be rejected, because people will tell you "no" an awful lot in this business. And practice, practice, practice, practice. I learn new things about acting, about technique, about myself on every single job I do. The learning, the hard work, it never stops. And there's really not a lot of, if any, security in this business, so you have to keep striving. Unlike most jobs, actors have to have job interviews (auditions) ALL the time. Some will go your way, some won't. But if you've got the stamina and a thick skin, the payoff of the work can be so sweet.

- Anne Slagill '11

Scenic Designer: David Zinn

Video: Kelly McAndrew



Quick Facts

- In 1999, USD alum Jeff Fluharty '94 and I published a book for 3rd and 4th graders called "[I Can't Talk Now...I'm Busy Writing Nothing!!!](#)"
- I do the New York Times crossword almost every day.
- From age 18 to 30 I never lived in a dorm or apartment for more than a year.
- I have worked with Robert DeNiro but have never seen Taxi Driver. (I'll say it for you... SHAME ON ME!!!)
- Kristin Moran, of the USD communication studies department, was my freshman and senior roommate at USD. We are still very good friends.
- My sister, Erin McAndrew, is a USD alumni as well, class of '93.

Useful Links

USD CAS English
www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/

USD CAS Theatre Arts
www.sandiego.edu/cas/theatrearts/

The Old Globe: "August: Osage County"
www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=8124

www.sandiego.edu/cas/

QUICKLINKS: [USD](#) | [COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES](#) | [DEPARTMENTS](#) | [PROGRAMS & CENTERS](#) | [GRADUATE STUDIES](#) | [MAJORS](#) | [MINORS](#)

Anthropology
Art, Architecture + Art History
Biology
Chemistry & Biochemistry

English
Environmental Studies
Ethnic Studies
History

Mathematics
Music
Philosophy
Physics

Psychological Sciences
Sociology
Theatre Arts (undergraduate)
Theatre (graduate)



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Union-Tribune
Publishing Date: June 05, 2011
Circulation: 408,825
Page Number: 6
Article Size: 104 sq inch
Ad Value: \$16,133.28

Page 1 of 2

TWO VERY DIFFERENT SETS, ONE ADROIT DESIGNER

Shows at the Globe and the Playhouse
both feature scenery by David Zinn

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

At the Old Globe, an imposing three-story house rises from the stage clear to the theater's rafters. This is the set of "August: Osage County," the searing Tracy Letts tragicomedy set in rural Oklahoma.

Take a trip across town to La Jolla Playhouse, and you also cross the pond — to northern Scotland, the setting of Arthur Kopit and Anton Dudley's comedy "A Dram of Drummhicit." The look of that show shifts with nearly every scene, from rustic church to humble pub to blasted heath.

What these two very different sets have in common is the man who conceived them: David Zinn, a versatile, Tony-nominated designer who also did the costumes for two shows now on Broadway ("Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" and "Good People").

Zinn might be the first designer to have shows running concurrently at both of San Diego's biggest theaters (which happen to be two of the most prominent regional theaters in the U.S.).

And the contrasts between his Globe and Playhouse sets serve in some ways as a window into how a designer deals with the strengths and demands of a particular script.

The overarching feel of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "August" is one of near-suffocation. Letts' story centers on a family brought together by the disappearance of its patriarch, but riven by long-festered secrets and resentments.

The house Zinn designed for the Globe's production of the play is based on one that he and director Sam Gold discovered on a scouting trip to Oklahoma.

Seen in cross-section, the home — cast in a wan light that leaves its recesses in spooky shadow — seems to bulge not just with decades' worth of detritus but with endless discontents. The fact that it's such a static set, with the action simply moving from room to room as the play progresses, emphasizes the sense that these are people trapped by the past and (psychologically if not literally) by this place.

"Drummhicit," by contrast, is all about movement — the shifting of scenes from the safe, warm indoors to the perils (and potential pleasures) of the outside world, as well as the spiritual progress of the main character from cynicism to belief.

This play has a starkly different tone from "August" — it's almost a farce at times, and it drinks deeply from the misty history of Scotland while also playing with modern-day clichés about the place (from haggis to bagpipes).

Zinn bridges those two realms deftly with an inventive set concept: An ancient-looking stone church revolves (along with other set pieces) to reveal a rollicking pub. It's a clever visual surprise that also says something about the local residents' uneasy peace with religion (and gets the audience quickly from one setting to another besides).

For the outdoor scenes — focused on a forbidding hill where supernatural spirits are said to reside — Zinn goes with scrims and projections that evoke a barren, almost lunar landscape. If it doesn't look like most people's conceptions of Scotland, its otherworldly feel is nevertheless fitting for a landscape whose inhabitants are, after all, not of this world.

It might take a supernatural act of good timing for a designer to have simultaneous sets at both these theaters again. But if you miss Zinn's work on "August" and "Drummhicit," just wait a bit.

Turns out he's also designing the scenery for "Peer Gynt" — the Playhouse's next production.

(For an interview with David Zinn, go to uniontrib.com/news/night-and-day/theater-arts.)

jim.hebert@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-2040 • Twitter @jimhebert • Facebook: Houseseats



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Union-Tribune
Publishing Date: June 05, 2011
Circulation: 408,825
Page Number: 6
Article Size: 104 sq inch
Ad Value: \$16,133.28

Page 2 of 2



The set for "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe is based on a house that designer David Zinn visited in rural Oklahoma. HENRY DIROCCO



The set of "A Dram of Drummh-icit" is far different from that of "August: Osage County." It's all about movement. Zinn bridges the gap between Scottish history and modern-day clichés with a clever creation: a stone church that rotates and turns into a bar. KEVIN BERNE

U-T THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Subscribe Today, Special Introductory Saving

MAKE US YOUR HOMEPAGE | SUBSCRIBE | CUSTOMER SERVICE | TODAY'S PAPER | ARCHIVES | U-T STORE | EMA

SIGNON
SAN DIEGO

NIGHT AND DAY



NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OBITS OPINION LIFESTYLE NIGHT & DAY VISIT SD TRAVEL RADIO 4SD DEALS

WEATHER 66° F TRAFFIC WEBCAMS HOT TOPICS: BALBOA PARK BLOG | PADRES | WATCHD



Theater & Performing Arts

THEATER NEWS PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS VISUAL ARTS EVENTS

EMAIL

PRINT

SAVE

Recommend

2

Stage designer doubles down on our town

Globe, Playhouse showcase very different sets by David Zinn

By James Hebert

3:13 p.m., June 3, 2011

At the Old Globe, an imposing three-story house rises from the stage clear to the theater's rafters. This is the set of "August: Osage County," the searing Tracy Letts tragicomedy set in rural Oklahoma.

Take a trip across town to La Jolla Playhouse, and you also cross the pond — to northern Scotland, the setting of Arthur Kopit and Anton Dudley's comedy "A Dram of



Drumhicit.” The look of that show shifts with nearly every scene, from rustic church to humble pub to blasted heath.

A view of the towering house that makes up David Zinn's set for "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe. Zinn also designed the set for another currently running show, "A Dram of Drumhicit" at La Jolla Playhouse. — Henry DiRocco

What these two very different sets have in common is the man who conceived them: David Zinn, a versatile, Tony-nominated designer who also did the costumes for two shows now on Broadway (“[Bengal Tiger](#) at the [Baghdad Zoo](#)” and “[Good People](#)”).

Zinn might be the first designer to have shows running concurrently at both of San Diego’s biggest theaters (which happen to be two of the most prominent regional theaters in the U.S.).

And the contrasts between his Globe and Playhouse sets serve in some ways as a window into how a designer deals with the strengths and demands of a particular script.

The overarching feel of the [Pulitzer Prize](#)-winning “August” is one of near-suffocation. Letts’ story centers on a family brought together by the disappearance of its patriarch, but riven by long-festered secrets and resentments.

The house Zinn designed for the Globe’s production of the play is based on one that he and director [Sam Gold](#) discovered on a scouting trip to Oklahoma.

Seen in cross-section, the home — cast in a wan light that leaves its recesses in spooky shadow — seems to bulge not just with decades’ worth of detritus but with endless discontents. The fact that it’s such a static set, with the action simply moving from room to room as the play progresses, emphasizes the sense that these are people trapped by the past and (psychologically if not literally) by this place.

“Drumhicit,” by contrast, is all about movement — the shifting of scenes from the safe, warm indoors to the perils (and potential pleasures) of the outside world, as well as the spiritual progress of the main character from cynicism to belief.

This play has a starkly different tone from “August” — it’s almost a farce at times, and it drinks deeply from the misty history of Scotland while also playing with modern-day clichés about the place (from haggis to bagpipes).

Zinn bridges those two realms deftly with an inventive set concept: An ancient-looking stone church revolves (along with other set pieces) to reveal a rollicking pub. It’s a clever visual surprise that also says something about the local residents’ uneasy peace with religion (and gets the audience quickly from one setting to another besides).

For the outdoor scenes — focused on a forbidding hill where supernatural spirits are said to reside — Zinn goes with scrims and projections that evoke a barren, almost lunar landscape. If it doesn’t look like most people’s conceptions of Scotland, its otherworldly feel is nevertheless fitting for a landscape whose inhabitants are, after all, not of this world.

It might take a supernatural act of good timing for a designer to have simultaneous sets at both these theaters again. But if you miss Zinn’s work on “August” and “Drumhicit,” just wait a bit.

Turns out he’s also designing the scenery for “[Peer Gynt](#)” — the Playhouse’s next production.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

- A retired San Diego Police Department officer with a penchant for Shakespeare penned a novel about a bard-quoting cop. (LA Times) VOSD's Keegan Kyle did an interview with the author a while back about [a different book he's researching](#).
- Tony-nominated stage designer David Zinn might be the first designer to be behind [two shows happening simultaneously](#) at San Diego's biggest theaters, the Old Globe and the La Jolla Playhouse. (Union-Tribune)

All Wrapped Up:

- An exhibit featuring the [body of a Baltimore man mummified](#) in 1994 according to 2,000-year-old Egyptian techniques opens at the San Diego Museum of Man this weekend. (North County Times)
- Sen. Christine Kehoe gave a "small business owner of the year" award to theater leader Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, who co-founded Moxie Theatre in 2005 to "create more [diverse and honest depictions of female characters](#) for the stage." (Kehoe's office)
- Don't jog past it unaware: A rundown (har, har) of [downtown's public art offerings](#). (Downtown News)

What Comes Next?

- Downtown's redevelopment agency is fielding ideas for [what should be done with the old chapel](#) in Cortez Hill named for St. Cecilia. Ideas include an art gallery, restaurants and an art/architecture discussion forum. (CityBeat)
- The collection of [28,000-some unseen photographs and negatives](#) of life in Logan Heights we talked about a few months ago is finally on display at the San Diego History Center.
- A handful of [young and energetic local performers](#) are launching a new theater company, Circle Circle dot dot, with a production called "The Break Up Break Down." (Broadway World San Diego)
- A "nomadic conversation" about life on either side of the border last weekend had 80 participants [use a drain pipe for a border crossing](#) as performance art. (Associated Press)

"The idea is to [bring the conversation to the landscape itself](#)," UCSD professor Teddy Cruz told the U-T.

(Want to recommend this arts newsletter to someone? Share this [sign-up link](#).)

Kelly Bennett is the arts editor for VOSD. You can reach her directly at kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org or 619.325.0531. Or you can keep up with her on Twitter [@kellyrbennett](#) or [on Facebook](#).

2

Share

Recommend

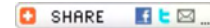
Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

© Copyright 2011, voiceofsandiego.org, San Diego, California. Powered by Blox CMS from TownNews.com.

BLOGS | OUT & ABOUT

Becoming Violet Weston

By Jeff Smith | Posted June 7, 2011, 11:58 a.m.

[RSS](#) | [E-MAIL THE AUTHOR](#)

Lois Markle quit smoking in 1974. To play Violet Weston, the matriarchal monster in the Old Globe's *August: Osage County*, she must smoke eight cigarettes each performance. "The smell's disgusting," she says. But since Violet ranks among the most demanding roles in contemporary theater, "every cigarette comes as a relief!"

The tobacco makes her dizzy. "Which helps," she laughs, "because Violet can be off-balance too." The Globe's run of *Osage* concludes this Sunday. The second it's done, "I'll quit smoking."

Until then, "the role is all I do." The NYC resident hasn't been to a beach, and spent only one hour at the zoo. She rests ("especially my voice," which cigarettes have made raspy) and pours over the script every day. Playwright Tracy Letts packed so much farce and fireworks into his epic, every performance "feels like spending all day at the gym."

Sharp, fiery, secretive, Violet Weston has battled the world since childhood. "To keep things in and isolate yourself like that takes enormous energy." Markle plays Violet like a bear trap: even though floating on downers, she's always taut, ready to spring.

"I didn't at first, but now I love Violet. She's a survivor."

When director Sam Gold talked to Markle about playing the role, he asked two questions: Could she play Violet without trying to make her nice (as other interpretations have tended to do); and would she be willing to wear a stringy-haired "cancer wig"?

"Sure," Markle replied to both. "Sounds interesting."

Cast members usually arrive at "half hour," 30 minutes before curtain. Markle's there an hour and a half early. She puts on make-up with a slow ritual that allows her "to inhabit Violet, and her to inhabit me."

Weekends are the kicker: two matinees and two evening performances in two days. The actors have two hours between shows. Some keep their make-up on. Markle can't. After the matinee, she takes it off and gives herself 15 minutes to walk her dog, and 15 more to eat a meal she prepared in advance. Then back to the ritual "with fresh make-up and a fresh inhabiting."

[MORE JEFF SMITH](#) | [MORE OUT & ABOUT](#) | [MORE THEATER](#)
[SUBSCRIBE TO THIS BLOG](#)



COMMENTS

No Comments

You must be a registered member to post comments.

Not a member? Sign up [here!](#)

Log in to comment

Username: Password:

PLAYBILL.COM

**"THE BEST NEW
MUSIC ON BROADWAY!"**
- VARIETY

**"CATCH ME
DAZZLES
BROADWAY!"**
- HUFFINGTON POST

**"SEXY
GOR"**

April 14, 2011



New and Improved Search

Search

THE MOTHERFKER WITH THE HAT****"MOVING AND POWERFUL, DELIGHTFUL AND TENDER"****Playbill Club**

Discounts
Benefits
Join Club
Member Services

News

U.S./Canada
International
Tony Awards
Obituaries
All

Listings/Tickets

Broadway
Off-Broadway
Kids' Theatre NYC
Regional/Tours
London

Restaurants & Hotels

Restaurants
Hotels

Features

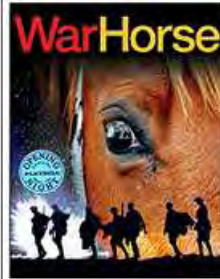
Week in Review
Broadway Grosses
On the Record
The DVD Shelf
Stage to Screens
On Opening Night
Ask Playbill.com
Photo Features
Special Features
All

**PLAYBILL
STORE.COM**

Shop for Broadway
Merchandise

Casting & Jobs

Job Listings
Post a Job

PLAYBILL
LINCOLN CENTER THEATER
AT THE VIVIAN BEAUMONT

[Buy this Limited Collector's
Edition](#)

London Stage Hit *War Horse* Opens on Broadway April 14

The National Theatre of Great Britain production of *War Horse*, the visually arresting play about the bond between a young man and his horse set against the backdrop of the first World War, officially opens April 14 at the Vivian Beaumont.

[Related Multimedia](#)

Matthew Broderick and Anika Noni Rose Will Announce Tony Nominations

Tony winners Matthew Broderick and Anika Noni Rose will announce the nominations for the 65th Annual Tony Awards May 3 at The New York Public

Library for the Performing Arts' Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center at Lincoln Center.

**Video**

Playbill Video Cue & A 2.0:
How to Succeed's Rose
Hemingway Answers Your
Questions



Highlights From *War Horse*



Catch Me If You Can's
Opening Night: The Real
Frank Abagnale, Jr.



[MORE VIDEO >>>](#)

Features

STAGE PORTRAIT: *Go
Back to Where You
Are's* Lisa Banes and
David Greenspan



Acclaimed
illustrator Ken

Latest News

***Wonderland* Cast Album Will Get
May 3 Release**

**Sony Pictures Classics to Release "God of
Carnage" at the End of 2011**



**New Documentary Will Explore Judy
Garland's Legendary 1961 Carnegie
Hall Performance**



**"Harvest" Film, Featuring Victoria
Clark and a Score by Duncan Sheik,
Will Open in NYC in May**



**Philharmonic's *Company*, With Neil
Patrick Harris and Patti LuPone, Will
Play 500 Locations**



**Quiara Alegria Hudes, Anna Ziegler,
Keith Reddin Among Writers Picked
for O'Neill Playwrights Conference**

MARQUEE VALUE: *Shrek The Musical* at the
Drury Lane Theatre



***Lend Me a Tenor The Musical* to
Open at West End's Gielgud; Initial
Casting Announced**



**Old Globe's *August: Osage County*
Will Star Robert Foxworth, Angela
Reed, Lois Markle, Kelly McAndrew**

Blogs**PLAYBLOG**

**A Musical Gone Wrong on
"Modern Family" (Video)**
ABC's "Modern Family" stars
stage actor Jesse T ...

**Making of *Wonderland's* 3-D
Rabbit Hole Street Art
(Video)**

**That Championship
Season's Chris Noth Visits
"The View" (Video)**

**Win Tickets to Matthew
Morrison's Los Angeles
Concert**

[More blog entries](#)

INSIDE TRACK

**The WEEK AHEAD: April 9-
15**

April showers us with exciting
things this WEEK AHEAD!
James Earl ...

The WEEK AHEAD: April 2-8

[More blog entries](#)

**PL**Fre
Exc**N**Ga:
Ber

Pri:

Tor
Ro:
The
The
CarThe
Lor**B**

ALL
BRI
Arc
Bill
Cat
Chi
Hoi
Hoi
Jer
Ma
Mo
Hal
Wo
anc

New:

New:
Most

PLAYBILL.COM

GET
SUPER SAVINGS!

WITH THE
PLAYBILL® CLUB!

CLICK HERE
TO JOIN
FOR FREE

April 14, 2011



New and Improved Search

Search [advance](#)

Home | **Playbill Club** | News | Listings | Features | Store | Casting & Jobs | Celeb Buzz | Blogs | Video/Photos | Interactive

Broadway | Off-Broadway | Kids' Theatre NYC | Regional/Tours | London

News: U.S./Canada



Old Globe's August: Osage County Will Star Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Kelly McAndrew

By *Kenneth Jones*

14 Apr 2011

The dysfunctional family of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County* at The Old Globe in San Diego will include Robert Foxworth as gone-missing Beverly Weston, Lois Markle as pill-popping matriarch Violet Weston and Angela Reed as volcanic daughter Barbara.

Advertisement



Directed by Obie Award winner Sam Gold (*Circle Mirror Transformation*, *The Aliens*), the dark comedy will run in the Old Globe Theatre May 7-June 12. Opening is May 12.

Kimberly Guerrero, who originated the role of new live-in housekeeper Johnna in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's *August: Osage County* and performed in Chicago, on Broadway, at the National Theatre in London and Sydney Theatre Company in Australia, will play the part in this new resident production.

The Tony Award-winning play about a family that reunites in Oklahoma following the disappearance of the patriarch, Beverley, will also feature Robin Pearson Rose (as Mattie Fae Aiken), Joseph Adams (Bill Fordham), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Carla Harting (Ivy

Weston), Ronete Levenson (Jean Fordham), Robert Maffia (Steve Heidebrecht), Kelly McAndrew (Karen Weston) and Haynes Thigpen (Little Charles Aiken).

The creative team includes David Zinn (scenic design), Clint Ramos (costume design), Japhy Weideman (lighting design), Fitz Patton (sound design), Jan Gist (dialect coach) and Diana Moser (stage manager).

For tickets and information, visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

Related Information

- Show Listing
- Email this Article
- Printer-friendly

SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

Blogs

PLAYBLOG

A Musical Gone Wrong on "Modern Family" (Video)
ABC's "Modern Family" stars stage actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson as Mitchell Pritchett and Eric Stonestreet as his onscreen pa ...

Making of Wonderland's 3-D Rabbit Hole Street Art (Video)

That Championship Season's Chris Noth Visits "The View" (Video)

Win Tickets to Matthew Morrison's Los Angeles Concert

Catch Me If You Can's Alex Ellis Goes "Full Out" in Episode 5 of "Diary of a Chorus Girl" (Video)

More blog entries

INSIDE TRACK

The WEEK AHEAD: April 9-15
April showers us with exciting things this WEEK AHEAD! James Earl Jones and Vanessa Redgrave make one final Broadway drive... Chris Rock's co- ...

The WEEK AHEAD: April 2-8

More blog entries



All
The
Stage
Is
Our
World

PLAY
BLOG

A Blog by the Staff
of Playbill.com®

Playbill Club Featured Offer

BABY IT'S YOU

Save 40% on your tickets to *Baby It's You!* featuring non-stop doo-wop, pop and rock 'n' roll classics!

[Click here](#) for details.



Featured New Arrivals

Mary Poppins the Broadway Musical - Pook-a-Looz Plush Doll



List price:
\$15.50

PLAYBI

Free Member
Exclusive Tic
Discounts

Newest D

*Gazillion Bul
Bengal Tiger
Baghdad
Priscilla Que
the Deser
Tomorrow M
Royal Danish
The Metropo
The Sphinx
Carson McCu
About Lov
The Addams
Lombardi*

Broadwa

ALSO SAVE C
BROADWAY'
*Arcadia
Billy Elliot
Catch Me If
Chicago
House of Blu
How to Succ
Jerusalem
Mary Poppin
Motherf**ke
Hat
Wonderland
and more!*

JOIN N

News

Most Recent

- Wonderlan*
Album Will
Release
- NEO7 Conc
Feature Re
Tituss Burg
Jennifer Cc
James, Jill
- New Solo /
Kelli O'Har
Due in May
- PHOTO CAI
Grey, Ben
Anything C
Castmates
"Joel Grey/
Life"
- MARQUEE
Shrek The



Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Haynes Thigpen, Carla Harting, Kimberly Guerrero and Todd Cerveris
photo by Henry DiRocco

PlayBlog: **Chicago Cast of Million Dollar Quartet Visits Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame (Video)**

 Follow us on **Twitter**.  Find us on **Facebook**.

All The Stage Is Our World

Browse all News

Keyword:

Features/Location:

Writer:

Date From:

Date To:

GO

[Contact Us](#) | [Advertise: Rates & Media Kit](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Send questions and comments to the [Webmaster](#)
Copyright © 2011 Playbill, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

The Book of Mormon - Logo T-Shirt



List price:
\$29.95

MORE ARRIVALS >>>

Best Sellers

The Ultimate Playbill Binder - Archival Quality Storage for Contemporary Sized Playbills



List price:
\$40.00
Sale price:
\$32.95

Broadway Poster Frame - Custom Made for all 14" x 22" Broadway Posters



List price:
\$35.00
Sale price:
\$27.95

MORE MERCHANDISE >>>



the Drury I

PLAYBILL

Latest Podcast:
Seth Rudetsky's
Backstage Apri

PLAYB

Newest featu
PlaybillArts.c
Marcus Robert
The Masters a
Theatre April :

Click here for
music, opera,
features.

Insider Info

- Schedule c
- Broadway :
- Schedule c
- Off-Broadw
- Broadway |
- and Standi
- Only Policie
- Off-Broadw
- Standing F
- Inexpensiv
- Policies
- Long Runs
- Broadway
- Weekly Scl
- Current Br
- Shows
- Broadway |
- Upcoming
- Recordings

Take Our Poll

Click here to s
latest polls

Share This Pag

Email this pag



MEMBER LOG IN
REGISTER NOW!

SHOWS & TICKETS

Broadway Tours
Off-Bway London

BWW TODAY

Latest News
CDs/Books/DVDs
Grosses **4/10**
Photos
Reviews
TV/Video
Web Radio

MESSAGE BOARDS

Broadway Off-topic
West End Student

CITY GUIDE

Event Calendar
NYC Spotlight
Hotel Finder
Restaurant Guide

FEATURES

Auditions
Classifieds ***new***
BWW Junior
Rialto Chatter
Stage to Screen
Store
Student Center ***new***
Tony Awards
Twitter Watch
Video Database ***new***

BROADWAY EXTRAS

Feedback
Photo IQ
Your Settings

Translate

pick a language

powered by Google



Get BWW Wireless

Photo Flash: Meet the Cast of Old Globe's AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY



Feedback



Printer-Friendly



E-Mail Article

Enter Your E-Mail Address:

Subscribe to Alerts for this Author

Tuesday, April 12, 2011; Posted: 03:04 PM - by [BWW News Desk](#)

Share |

Like

Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Executive Producer [Lou Spisto](#) today announced the complete cast and creative team for [Tracy Letts'](#) award-winning play, August: Osage County. Directed by Obie Award winner [Sam Gold](#), the dark comedy will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, May 7 - June 12. Preview performances run May 7 - May 11. Opening night is Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are currently available by subscription only. Single tickets will go on sale on Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Check out photos of the cast below!

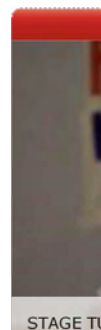
One of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade, August: Osage County won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. [Tracy Letts'](#) sprawling saga about three generations of an Oklahoma family has drawn comparisons to the work of American dramatists [Eugene O'Neill](#), [Sam Shepard](#) and [Tennessee Williams](#). When their father goes missing, the huge and completely dysfunctional [Al Weston](#) family reunites and sparks fly. Violet, the take-no-prisoners matriarch, struggles for control over a family set to implode over secrets, lies and betrayals. A large and complex modern-day masterpiece that the New York Times hailed as "flat-out, no asterisks and without qualifications, the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years."

The cast of August: Osage County features Globe Associate Artists [Robert Foxworth](#) ([Beverly Weston](#)) and [Robin Pearson Rose](#) (Mattie Fae Aiken) and also [Joseph Adams](#) (Bill Fordham), [Guy Boyd](#) (Charlie Aiken), [Todd Cerveris](#) (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), [Kimberly Guerrero](#) (Johnna Monevata), [Carla Harting](#) ([Ivy Weston](#)), [Ronete Levenson](#) ([Jean Fordham](#)), [Robert Maffia](#) (Steve Heidebrecht), [Lois Markle](#) (Violet Weston), [Kelly McAndrew](#) (Karen Weston), [Angela Reed](#) ([Barbara Fordham](#)) and [Haynes Thigpen](#) (Little Charles Aiken).

The creative team includes [David Zinn](#) (Scenic Design), [Clint Ramos](#) (Costume Design), [Japhy Weideman](#) (Lighting Design), [Fitz Patton](#) (Sound Design), Jan Gist (Dialect Coach) and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

Playwright [Tracy Letts](#) has been an ensemble member of [Steppenwolf Theatre](#) Company since 2002. He was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play August: Osage County, which played on Broadway for over a year following a sold-out run at Steppenwolf in 2007. August also enjoyed a sold-out engagement at London's [National Theatre](#) and a U.S. National Tour in summer 2009. Other accolades include five Tony Awards (including Best Play), an Olivier Award and six Jeff Awards (including Best Play). Letts is also the author of Superior Donuts, which had its world premiere at Steppenwolf in 2008 and opened on Broadway in 2009; Man from Nebraska, which was produced at Steppenwolf in 2003 and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; Killer Joe, which has been produced in Chicago, London and New York; and Bug, which has played in New York, Chicago and London. As an actor, he has appeared at Steppenwolf in Who's Afraid of [Virginia Woolf?](#), Betrayal, The Pillowman, Last of the Boys, The Pain and the Itch, The Dresser, Homebody/Kabul, The Dazzle, Glengarry Glen Ross (also in Dublin and Toronto), Three Days of Rain, Road to Nirvana and Picasso at the Lapin Agile. His film and television credits include "The District," "Profiler," "Prison Break," "The [Drew Carey](#) Show," "Seinfeld," "Home Improvement," Guinevere, U.S. Marshals and Chicago Cab.

Director [Sam Gold](#) won an Obie Award for his direction of [Annie Baker's](#) Circle Mirror Transformation ([Playwrights Horizons](#)) and The Aliens ([Rattlestick Playwrights Theater](#)). His other recent credits include [Bathsheba Doran's](#) Kin ([Playwrights Horizons](#)), [Nick Jones'](#) The Coward ([Lincoln Center Theater](#)), Jollyship the Whiz-Bang ([Ars Nova](#)), [Kim Rosenstock's](#) Tigers Be Still (Roundabout Theatre Company), [Stephen Belber's](#) Dusk Rings a Bell ([Atlantic Theater Company](#)), [Noah Haidle's](#) Rag and Bone (Rattlestick), [Sam Marks'](#) The Joke ([Studio Dante](#)) and [Betty Shamieh's](#) [The Black Eyed](#) (New York Theatre Workshop). From 2003-2006, Gold served as the dramaturg at The [Wooster Group](#). He is a Roundabout Associate Artist, NYTW Usual Suspect, Drama League Directing Fellow, recipient of the Princess Grace Award and graduate of the Juilliard Directing Program.



STAGE TU



H O T



MESS

See The N:
REVIEW: L
Playh
The Old Gl
The Ten Te
Cher in Las

Broad



DIAMOND



DALE

Go Back
To Where
You Are



je ni



Half-Price Tickets

to
Live Entertainment
& Sports

Offers to theater,
concerts, games
and more.

Join Goldstar
for free,
discover the city, and
Go Out More!



ABOUT US

Advertising Info
Contact Us
Forgot Login?
Logo Archive
Merchandise
RSS/XML Feeds
Submit News
Your Web Site

SPONSORED LINKS

[Broadway Tickets](#)
[Wicked Tickets](#)
[Catch Me If You Can Tickets](#)
[Lion King Tickets](#)
[Mamma Mia Tickets](#)
[Arcadia Tickets](#)
[Billy Elliot Tickets](#)
[Jersey Boys Tickets](#)
[Addams Family Tickets](#)
[Spider-Man Tickets](#)

SPONSORED LINKS

[Wicked Review](#)
[Jersey Boys Review](#)
[South Pacific Review](#)
[Jersey Boys Review](#)

Get your [Spider Man](#) tickets to see this super hero in a super musical! Also look for cheap [Wicked](#) tickets for any of its many productions. [OnlineSeats](#) is simply the site to find the very best theater seats, including [Phantom of the](#)

TICKETS to August: Osage County can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Tickets are currently available by subscription only. Single tickets will go on sale on Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. Performances at the [Old Globe Theatre](#) begin on May 7 and continue through June 12. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$85. Performance times: Previews: Saturday, May 7 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday matinees at 2:00 p.m., Sunday matinees at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There is also a Wednesday matinee on June 1 at 1:00 p.m. and no Saturday matinee performance on June 4. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco



[Lois Markle](#), [Angela Reed](#), [Kelly McAndrew](#) and [Carla Harting](#)



[Robert Foxworth](#), [Beverly Weston](#)

Latest News

STAGE TL
PRISCILL
Sheldon '
NEW YOR

Photo Fla
THE MUS
Productio

STAGE TL
Making o
WONDER
Rabbit H

Photo Fla
CARNAGI
Center T
with Bro

STAGE TL
MODERN
Musical!

Laura Ber
Kudish, e
BENEFIT

WONDER
Album Se
Release

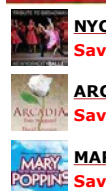
Arcelus, I
Graham &
Star in R
Holmes'
Pre-Broad
TO KILL &
Stage

Cynthia M
Politics a
Discussio
Public, 5/

Broad

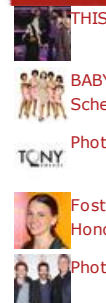
Now Playi
Glitter
Revised Vi

Broad



[Click t](#)

HOT S



[Opera: Love Never Dies seats for this spring and Radio City Christmas Spectacular tickets for the holidays now!](#)

Ads by Google

[Stomp Broadway](#)

[Wicked Play](#)

[Play Discount](#)

[Broadway Shows](#)



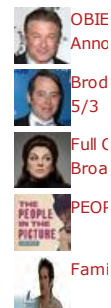
[Sam Gold](#), [Lois Markle](#), [Robin Pearson Rose](#), [Joseph Adams](#), [Carla Harting](#), [Robert Foxworth](#), [Haynes Thigpen](#), [Kelly McAndrew](#), [Robert Maffia](#), [Angela Reed](#), [Kimberly Guerrero](#), [Guy Boyd](#), [Ronete Levenson](#), [Todd Cerveris](#)



[Kimberly Guerrero](#), [Robert Maffia](#), [Kelly McAndrew](#), [Joseph Adams](#), [Ronete Levenson](#), [Angela Reed](#), [Robert Foxworth](#), [Lois Markle](#), [Robin Pearson Rose](#), [Guy Boyd](#), [Carla Harting](#), [Haynes Thigpen](#) and [Todd Cerveris](#)



[Robert Maffia](#), [Kelly McAndrew](#), [Joseph Adams](#), [Ronete Levenson](#), [Angela Reed](#), [Robert Foxworth](#), [Lois Markle](#), [Robin Pearson Rose](#), [Guy Boyd](#), [Haynes Thigpen](#), [Carla Harting](#), [Kimberly Guerrero](#) and [Todd Cerveris](#)



AM
THE M
THE F
THE PE
IF YOU
SPIDER
WIZARD
Awards
STEPHE

- [Lei](#)
- [Ch](#)
- [Ari](#)
- [Vic](#)
- [Me](#)
- [Sa](#)
- [Ma](#)
- [Ka](#)
- [Ch](#)
- [Lily](#)





TMINSIDER NEWS!

BE FIRST TO GET DISCOUNT
DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX
SIGN UP FOR FREE

THEATER NEWS

>> ARCHIVES

Guy Boyd, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Angela Reed, et al. Set for Old Globe's *August: Osage County*

By: **Dan Bacalzo** · Apr 12, 2011 · San Diego

The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego has announced casting for its production of Tracy Letts' ***August: Osage County***, to run May 7-June 12. Sam Gold will direct.

Winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and numerous other awards, Letts' sprawling saga about three generations of an Oklahoma family has drawn comparisons to the work of American dramatists Eugene O'Neill, Sam Shepard and Tennessee Williams. When their father goes missing, the huge and completely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and sparks fly. Violet, the take-no-prisoners matriarch, struggles for control over a family set to implode over secrets, lies and betrayals.

The cast will feature Joseph Adams (Bill Fordham), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Robert Foxworth (Beverly Weston), Kimberly Guerrero (Johnna Monevata), Carla Harting (Ivy Weston), Ronete Levenson (Jean Fordham), Robert Maffia (Steve Heidebrecht), Lois Markle (Violet Weston), Kelly McAndrew (Karen Weston), Angela Reed (Barbara Fordham), Robin Pearson Rose (Mattie Fae Aiken), and Haynes Thigpen (Little Charles Aiken)

The creative team will include David Zinn (scenic design), Clint Ramos (costume design), Japhy Weideman (lighting design), and Fitz Patton (sound design).

For tickets and more information, [click here](#).



Lois Markle
(© Henry DiRocco)

ABOUT THE SHOW

August: Osage County

Synopsis
Theater Loca
Schedule
Add Your Re
Buy Tickets

MOST POPULAR STORIES

Sleep No More [REVIEWS »](#)

NEWS FLASH: *Harry Potter's* Michael Gambon Discusses "Naughty" Co-St Radcliffe [THEATER NEWS »](#)

PHOTO FLASH: Davis Gaines, Brian James, Kelli O'Hara, et al. Honor Jas Robert Brown and Georgia Stitt at C. Gala [THEATER NEWS »](#)

Getting Into the Sister Act [FEATURE »](#)

Love Song [REVIEWS »](#)

Mo



OUR RECENT FEATURES

Getting Into the Sister Act

Marla Mindelle discusses her role as Sister Robert in the popular new Broadway music. [read more »](#)

Hat Trick

Bobby Cannavale, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Chri Elizabeth Rodriguez, and Anna D. Shaprio dis new hit play *The MotherF**ker With the Hat*.

For more information and tickets, [click here](#).

[read more »](#)

Opening Night: *The MotherFker With the Hat***

Josh Charles, Tate Donovan, Sutton Foster



Share 7

Like 7

2

Further Reading:

- » **Alliance Theatre to Offer April 3 *August: Osage County* REVEALED Panel** [Theater News](#)
- » **Brenda Bynum to Star in Alliance Theatre's *August: Osage County*** [Theater News](#)
- » **Josie de Guzman, Jennifer Harmon, et al. Set for Alley's *August: Osage County*** [Theater News](#)

more: [August: Osage County](#)

Insider Comments:

--There are no comments posted yet.

Be the first to comment!

Please login to post!

PLAYBILL.COM

LOMBARDI "JUDITH LIGHT is STUNNING!"
 —THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
 ★ A NEW AMERICAN PLAY ★
GET
TICKETS

May 07, 2011



New and Improved Search

Search [advanced search](#)
 BOBBY CANNAVALE
 CHRIS ROCK
 ANNABELLA SCIORRA

THE MOTHERFKER WITH THE HAT**

 NOW ON BROADWAY
 GET TICKETS NOW!

Playbill Club

 Discounts
 Benefits
 Join Club
 Member Services

News

 U.S./Canada
 International
 Tony Awards
 Obituaries
 Awards Roundup
 All

Listings/Tickets

 Broadway
 Off-Broadway
 Kids' Theatre NYC
 Regional/Tours
 London

Restaurants & Hotels

 Restaurants
 Hotels

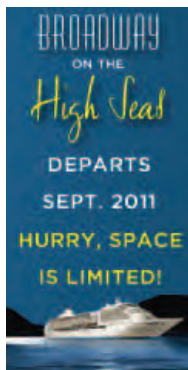
Features

 Week in Review
 Broadway Grosses
 On the Record
 The DVD Shelf
 Stage to Screens
 On Opening Night
 Ask Playbill.com
 Photo Features
 Special Features
 All

PLAYBILL
STORE.COM

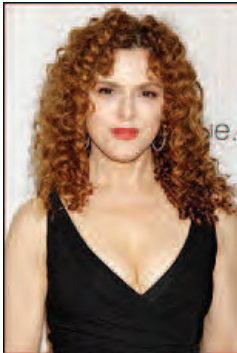
 Shop for Broadway
 Merchandise

Casting & Jobs

 Job Listings
 Post a Job


Celebrity Buzz

Diva Talk


 Bernadette Peters
 Credit: Joseph Marzullo/WENN

"Hats Off, Here They Come, Those Beautiful Girls": Starry Follies Begins Kennedy Center Run May 7

 Some of the biggest talents on both sides of the Atlantic are featured in the cast of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' production of Stephen Sondheim and James Goldman's *Follies*, which begins previews May 7 at 7:30 PM.

Musicals in Mufti Will Offer *I'm Getting My Act Together* and World Premiere of Its Sequel

 The York Theatre Company's summer 2011 Musicals in Mufti Concert Series will kick off with Gretchen Cryer and Nancy Ford's late-70s Off-Broadway hit, *I'm Getting My Act Together* and *Taking It on the Road*, which will play in repertory with the world premiere of the show's sequel, *Still Getting My Act Together*.


Video

The Normal Heart Tony Nominees Ellen Barkin and Joe Mantello Spread the Word of Kramer

How To Succeed's Tony Nominee John Larroquette: J.B. Biggley Is Bigger Than Life

The Motherfker With The Hat's** Uptown Tony Nominees From a Downtown World


MORE VIDEO >>>

Features

STAGE PORTRAIT:
The Normal Heart's
 John Benjamin Hickey, Jim Parsons,
 Joe Mantello, Ellen Barkin


Acclaimed

Latest News


PLAYBILL.COM'S BRIEF ENCOUNTER With *War Horse's* Seth Numrich
PHOTO CALL: Kushner's *Intelligent Homosexual's Guide*, With Stephen Spinella, Linda Emond, Steven Pasquale, Michael Esper, Opens at The Public

Arthur Laurents, Legendary Librettist, Playwright, Screenwriter and Director, Dies at 93

Old Globe's *August: Osage County*, With Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Begins May 7

George S. Kaufman Is Trapped in Jeffrey Hatcher & Eric Simonson's *Louder Faster*, Premiering May 7
PHOTO CALL: Suzanne Vega's *Carson McCullers Talks About Love* Opens Off-Broadway May 5

Kristin Chenoweth Has Full Plate with New Country-Pop CD, TV Pilot and Possible Broadway Return

DIVA TALK: Catching Up With *Follies* Star Jan Maxwell

Jacquelyn Piro Donovan Stars in North Carolina *Hello, Dolly!* Starting May 7

Gay Marshall to Perform During May

Blogs

PLAYBLOG

E-Cards for the Broadway Mom from Chicago and Priscilla

Is your mother normally compared to Mama Rose? Can she be caught ...

Watch Darren Ritchie and The White Knightz in "One Knight" from Wonderland (Video)

CHART TOPPERS: Top-Grossing Broadway Productions, Week of April 25-May 1

"Little Girls, Little Girls," You Can Be the Next Annie on Broadway

More blog entries

INSIDE TRACK
 The WEEK AHEAD: May 7-13

Awards season is in full bloom this WEEK AHEAD! Hugh Jackman leav ...

Tonys 2011: (In, Out, "Forgot") The Answers

More blog entries



PLAYBILL CLUB

 Free Membership
 Exclusive Ticket Discounts

Newest Discounts

Rent Lombardi Hair
The Lombardi Case 1975
The Ryan Case 1873
Girl Talk
Spider-Man
Desperate Writers
Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
Arcadia

Broadway's Best

ALSO SAVE ON BROADWAY'S BEST
Catch Me If You Can
Chicago
Ghetto Klown
House of Blue Leaves
How to Succeed...
Mary Poppins
Priscilla Queen of the...
Rock of Ages
The Normal Heart
The Phantom of the Opera
 and more!

JOIN NOW!

News

- Most Recently Posted:**
- PLAYBILL.COM'S BRIEF ENCOUNTER With *War Horse's* Seth Numrich
 - Musicals in Mufti Will Offer *I'm Getting My Act Together* and World Premiere of Its Sequel
 - Old Globe's *August: Osage County*, With Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Begins May 7
 - Jacquelyn Piro Donovan Stars in North Carolina *Hello, Dolly!* Starting May 7
 - Jeff Still, Keith Perry Featured in *Waiting for Lefty*, Beginning May 7 in NYC

PLAYBILL.COM®

SAVE UP TO \$35!
with code SHAGPB

THE SI

May 09, 2011



New and Improved Search

Home | Playbill Club | News | Listings | Features | Store | Casting & Jobs | Celeb Buzz | Blogs | Video/Photos
Week in Review | Broadway Grosses | On the Record | The DVD Shelf | Stage to Screens | On Opening Night | Playbill Archives | Ask Playb

News: U.S./Canada



Related Information

- Show Listing
- Email this Article
- Printer-friendly

SHARE



Old Globe's August: Osage County, With Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Begins May 7

By [Kenneth Jones](#)
07 May 2011

The dysfunctional family of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County* at The Old Globe in San Diego includes Robert Foxworth as gone-missing Beverly Weston, Lois Markle as pill-popping matriarch Violet Weston and Angela Reed as volcanic daughter Barbara. Performances begin May 7.

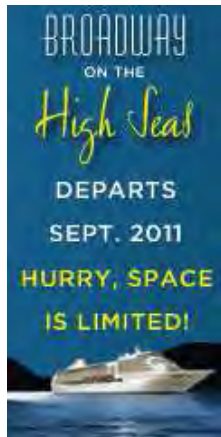
RELATED ARTICLES:

14 Apr 2011 -- *Old Globe's August: Osage County Will Star Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Kelly McAndrew*

[All Related Articles](#)



Advertisement



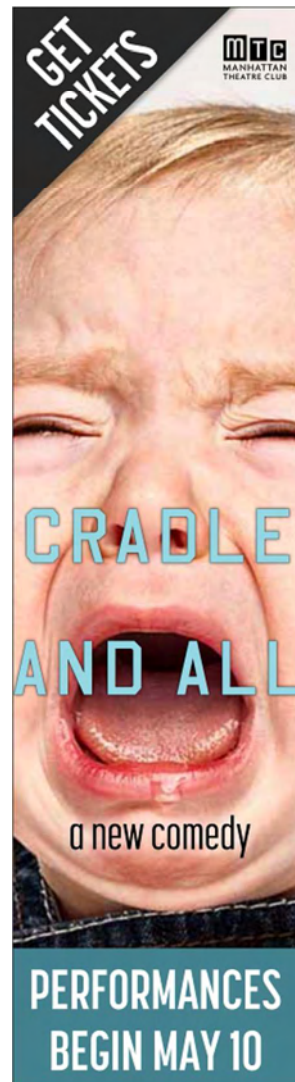
Directed by Obie Award winner Sam Gold (*Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Kin*, *The Aliens*), the dark comedy will open May 12, after previews, and play the Old Globe Theatre through June 12.

Kimberly Guerrero, who originated the role of new live-in housekeeper Johnna in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's *August: Osage County* and performed in Chicago, on Broadway, at the National Theatre in London and Sydney Theatre Company in Australia, plays the part in this new resident production.

The Tony Award-winning play about a family that reunites in Oklahoma following the disappearance of the patriarch, Beverley, also features Robin Pearson Rose (as Mattie Fae Aiken), Joseph Adams (Bill Fordham), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Carla Harting (Ivy Weston), Ronete Levenson (Jean Fordham), Robert Maffia (Steve Heidebrecht), Kelly McAndrew (Karen Weston) and Haynes Thigpen (Little Charles Aiken).

The creative team includes David Zinn (scenic design), Clint Ramos (costume design), Japhy Weideman (lighting design), Fitz Patton (sound design), Jan Gist (dialect coach) and Diana Moser (stage manager).

For tickets and information, visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.



Playbill Club Featured Offer

HAIR

Save up to 50% on Hair back on Broadway for a limited engagement!

[Click here](#) for details.





Robert Maffia, Kelly McAndrew, Joseph Adams, Ronete Levenson, Angela Reed, Robert Foxworth, Lois Markle, Robin Pearson Rose, Guy Boyd, Haynes Thigpen, Carla Harting, Kimberly Guerrero and Todd Cerveris
photo by Henry DiRocco

PlayBlog: [A Look into Leslie Kritzer's *Beautiful Disaster* Concert \(Video\)](#)

 Follow us on [Twitter](#).  Find us on [Facebook](#).



Browse all News

Keyword:

Features/Location:

Writer:

Date From:

Date To:

Featured New Arrivals

The Book of Mormon - Logo T-Shirt



List price:
\$29.95

Wonderland Original Broadway Cast Recording CD



List price:
\$18.98
Sale price:
\$13.95

[MORE ARRIVALS >>>](#)

Best Sellers

The Ultimate Playbill Binder - Archival Quality Storage for Contemporary Sized Playbills



List price:
\$40.00
Sale price:
\$33.95

The Playbill Broadway Yearbook 2009 - 2010 Season: 6th Annual Edition



List price:
\$35.00
Sale price:
\$16.95

[MORE MERCHANDISE >>>](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Advertise: Rates & Media Kit](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Send questions and comments to the [Webmaster](#)
Copyright © 2011 Playbill, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



MEMBER LOG IN
REGISTER NOW!

SHOWS & TICKETS

Broadway Tours
Off-Bway London
Pick Me a Bway Show

BWW TODAY

BWW Awards ***vote now***
Latest News
CDs/Books/DVDs
Grosses **5/08**
Photos
Reviews
TV/Video
Web Radio

MESSAGE BOARDS

Broadway Off-topic
West End Student

CITY GUIDE

Event Calendar
NYC Spotlight
Hotel Finder
Restaurant Guide

FEATURES

Auditions
Classifieds
BWW Junior
Rialto Chatter
Stage to Screen
Store
Student Center
Tony Awards
Twitter Watch
Video Database

BROADWAY EXTRAS

Feedback
Photo IQ
Your Settings

Translate

pick a language

powered by Google

twitter

facebook



Photo Flash: Old Globe Presents August: Osage County



Feedback



Printer-Friendly



E-Mail Article

Enter Your E-Mail Address:

Subscribe to Alerts for this Author

Tuesday, May 10, 2011; Posted: 04:05 PM - by [BWW News Desk](#)

[Share](#) |

[Like](#)

[Sign Up to see what your friends like.](#)

When their father goes missing, the huge, sprawling and completely dysfunctional [Al Weston](#) family reunites and sparks fly.

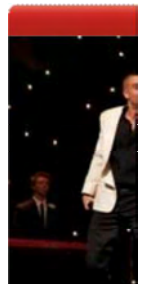
CREATIVE TEAM: [David Zinn](#) (Scenic Design), [Clint Ramos](#) (Costume Design), [Japhy Weideman](#) (Lighting Design), [Fitz Patton](#) (Sound Design), Jan Gist (Dialect Coach) and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

CAST: [Joseph Adams](#) (Bill Fordham), [Guy Boyd](#) (Charlie Aiken), [Todd Cerveris](#) (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), [Robert Foxworth](#) ([Beverly Weston](#)), [Kimberly Guerrero](#) (Johnna Monevata), [Carla Harting](#) ([Ivy Weston](#)), [Ronete Levenson](#) ([Jean Fordham](#)), [Robert Maffia](#) (Steve Heidebrecht), [Lois Markle](#) (Violet Weston), [Kelly McAndrew](#) (Karen Weston), [Angela Reed](#) ([Barbara Fordham](#)), [Robin Pearson Rose](#) (Mattie Fae Aiken) and [Haynes Thigpen](#) (Little Charles Aiken).

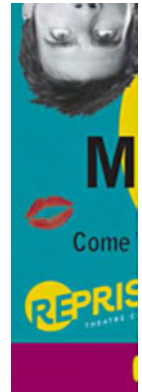
BOX OFFICE WINDOW HOURS: Noon to final curtain Tuesday through Sunday. [American Express](#), Discover, MasterCard and VISA accepted. (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623]

LOCATION: [The Old Globe](#) is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. Free parking is available throughout the park. Valet parking is also available (\$10). For parking information visit www.BalboaPark.org.

Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Photos and Au
More!



MESSAG

Sleep No More
Boston BWW R
Official! Neil Pat
Hair has a ridicu
WOW! Daniel R

Broadwa



If Yo
Eugh
THE



Meet Vera
Stark
No
He
BC



christ
really

Great Snacks
Great Value



Click here to
SAVE
\$2.00

ABOUT US

Advertising Info
Contact Us
Forgot Login?
Logo Archive
Merchandise
RSS/XML Feeds
Submit News
Your Web Site

SPONSORED LINKS

[Broadway Tickets](#)
[Wicked Tickets](#)
[Catch Me If You Can Tickets](#)
[Lion King Tickets](#)
[Mamma Mia Tickets](#)
[Arcadia Tickets](#)
[Billy Elliot Tickets](#)
[Jersey Boys Tickets](#)
[Addams Family Tickets](#)
[Spider-Man Tickets](#)

SPONSORED LINKS

[Wicked Review](#)
[Jersey Boys Review](#)
[South Pacific Review](#)
[Jersey Boys Review](#)

Get your [Spider Man tickets](#) to see this super hero in a super musical! Also look for cheap [Wicked tickets](#) for any of its many productions. [OnlineSeats](#) is simply the site to find the very best theater seats, including [Phantom of the Opera](#): Love Never Dies seats for this spring and [Radio City](#)



Angela Reed and Lois Markle



August: Osage County cast

Latest News:

Simon Russe
to Lead Atlan
Theater Com
BLUEBIRD, 8

Photo Flash:
Globe Presen
August: Osag
County

BWW TV: Me
Angels of AN
GOES!

Photo Flash:
on Tony Snul
really OK!"

ANYTHING G
Perform on T
5/12

Are You Follo
BWW Yet on
Facebook?

Photo Covera
SLEEPING BE
WAKES Plays
McCarter The

2010-11 The
World Award
Announced -
Hemingway,
Larroquette,
Quinto, Shel
Mother**cke

Photo Covera
Meets the Pr

[Christmas Spectacular tickets](#)
for the holidays now!

Ads by Google

[Broadway](#)

[Linn County](#)

[Utah County](#)

[Photo Oklahoma](#)



The cast of [Tracy Letts](#)' Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County



The cast of [Tracy Letts](#)' Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County



[Robert Maffia](#) and [Ronete Levenson](#)



[Angela Reed](#), [Carla Harting](#) and [Kelly McAndrew](#)



[Angela Reed](#) and [Lois Markle](#)



[Angela Reed](#) and [Joseph Adams](#)



[Angela Reed](#), [Carla Harting](#) and [Kelly McAndrew](#)



[Lois Markle](#) (center) with the cast of [Tracy Letts](#)' Pulitzer Prize-winning play August: Osage County



[Robin Pearson Rose](#) and [Guy Boyd](#)



[Lois Markle](#), [Robert Foxworth](#) and [Kimberly Guerrero](#)



Have You Voted Yet for the 2011 BroadwayWorld.com Awards?
If Not, [Click Here!](#)

Leave Comments



Add a comment...

Comment using...



Facebook social plugin

PLAYBILL.COM

Les Misérables
The Musical Event of a Lifetime

25TH ANNIVERSARY
NOW ON BLU-RAY™ & DVD
BUY NOW

May 12, 2011



New and Improved Search

Search [advanced search](#)

[Home](#) [Playbill Club](#) [News](#) [Listings](#) [Features](#) [Store](#) [Casting & Jobs](#) [Celeb Buzz](#) [Blogs](#) [Video/Photos](#) [Interactive](#) [Reference](#)

[Discounts](#) [Benefits](#) [Join Club](#) [Member Services](#)

News: U.S./Canada



PLAYBILL

PHOTO CALL: August: Osage County, With Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed and Lois Markle, at the Old Globe

By Lucas Lilieholm
12 May 2011

The dysfunctional family of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County* at The Old Globe in San Diego includes Robert Foxworth as gone-missing Beverly Weston, Lois Markle as pill-popping matriarch Violet Weston and Angela Reed as volcanic daughter Barbara.

Advertisement



Directed by Obie Award winner Sam Gold (*Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Kin*, *The Aliens*), the dark comedy opened May 12, after previews, and plays the Old Globe Theatre through June 12. Here is a look at the production:

View the Entire Photo Gallery



Angela Reed and Lois Markle
Photo by Henry DiRocco

The Tony Award-winning play about a family that reunites in Oklahoma following the disappearance of the patriarch, Beverly, also features Robin Pearson Rose (as Mattie Fae Aiken), Joseph Adams (Bill Fordham), Guy Boyd (Charlie Aiken), Todd Cerveris (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau), Carla Harting (Ivy Weston), Ronete Levenson (Jean Fordham), Robert Maffia (Steve Heidebrecht), Kelly McAndrew (Karen Weston) and Haynes Thigpen (Little Charles Aiken).

For tickets and information, visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

Related Information

- Show Listing
- Email this Article
- Printer-friendly

SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

RELATED ARTICLES:

14 Apr 2011 -- Old Globe's *August: Osage County* Will Star Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed, Lois Markle, Kelly McAndrew

[All Related Articles](#)

RELATED MEDIA:

PHOTO GALLERIES



August: Osage County, With Robert Foxworth, Angela Reed and Lois Markle, at the Old Globe



Subscribe to Podcasts



Playbill Club Featured Offer

HAIR

Save up to 50% on Hair back on Broadway for a limited engagement!

[Click here](#) for details.



Featured New Arrivals

The Book of Mormon - Logo T-Shirt



List price: \$29.95

Beauty and the Beast Glitter Globe

PLAYBILL CLUB

Free Membership
Exclusive Ticket
Discounts

Newest Discounts

Manipulation
Rain
National Comedy Theatre
Chicago
Through a Glass Darkly
Rent
Lombardi
Hair
The Lombardi Case 197!
The Ryan Case 1873

Broadway's Best

ALSO SAVE ON
BROADWAY'S BEST

Billy Elliot
Catch Me If You Can
Good People
House of Blue Leaves
How to Succeed...
Memphis
Motherfker with the Hat**
Rock of Ages
Sister Act
The Phantom of the Opera
and more!

JOIN NOW!

News

Most Recently Posted:

- VIDEO FEATURE:
Secrets of the Puppet Masters Backstage at *The Addams Family*
- Deirdre O'Connell and Reed Birney Named Winners of Richard Seff Awards
- Tracee Chimo and Santino Fontana Win Clarence Derwent Awards
- *Aftermath*, With Annie Potts, Returns to Los Angeles
- Telly Leung, Francis Jue, Matthew Wilkas to Workshop *Paper Dolls* for Sundance Institute in NYC

PLAYBILL RAD

Latest Podcast:
Seth Rudetsky's Onstage & Backstage May 2, 2011

[San Diego Jewish Journal](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [SDJewishjournal](#) [home](#) [about us](#) [contact us](#)

Jewish

San Diego Jewish Journal

Flip through every issue
of SDJJ on the web!



- [Subscribe](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Advertise SDJJ](#)
- [The Jewish 411](#)

search for stories

SEARCH

A Merry Month of Entertainment

by Eileen Sondak | [May 2011](#) | [Post your comment »](#)



It's the merry, merry month of May, and the entertainment scene in San Diego is giving arts buffs plenty of reasons for merriment. Some of the shows will tug at your heartstrings or give you food for thought, and you won't have to look far to satisfy your appetite for a perfect evening out.

The San Diego Opera delivers one more matinee of "Faust" May 1 before getting Bizet's "Carmen" ready for a May 14-22 run at the Civic Theatre. One of the most beloved operas of all time, "Carmen" will feature Nino Surguladze and Salvatore Licitra in leading roles, and Edoardo Muller conducting. What a way to end a spectacular season.

Cygnnet Theatre's production of "Cabaret" — the sensational, mesmerizing and extremely disturbing musical masterpiece that follows the rise of Nazism amidst the naughty night life of the seedy Kit Kat Klub — will play on at the Old Town Theatre through May 22. Expect an arresting change in this staging. Director Sean Murray transformed the sleazy emcee in this "Cabaret" into a woman (played by Karson St. John), which makes this symbolic character even creepier. The powerful production is appropriately raunchy and ultimately sinister, and it has audiences on their feet for curtain calls. Don't miss it!

The Old Globe will give "August: Osage County" its regional premiere May 7-June 12. This Broadway blockbuster, directed by Sam Gold, is a modern day classic about a dysfunctional family in crisis. Playing at the Globe's White Theatre is Alan Ayckbourn's "Life of Riley," a hilarious offbeat comedy making its U.S. premiere. The deliciously dark comedy continues through June 5.

Aficionados of alfresco entertainment will welcome the arrival of the Globe's Shakespeare Festival, which takes up residency on the outdoor stage May 29. The three-show season will run in rotating repertory through Sept. 25. The Bard's "Much Ado About Nothing" will start the ball rolling, with its delightfully ill-matched lovers trading barbs with comic results. "The Tempest" will begin June 5 and Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus" will be added to the rotation June 12.

The La Jolla Playhouse will launch its season May 17 with a world premiere. "A Dram of Drummhicit," directed by Christopher Ashley, will remain at the Mandell Weiss Theatre through June 12.

SEARCH



EMAIL US

SDGLN.com
SAN DIEGO GAY & LESBIAN NEWSPLAY.
MEET.
CONNECT.

SPRING Scaven

May 19, 2011 | 5:30-7:30
Pre-Register for FREE | \$10 at the

NEWS COMMENTARY CAUSES ENTERTAINMENT SOCIAL HEALTH, WELLNESS & SPORTS EVENT
EVENTS ARTS & CULTURE NIGHTLIFE & DINING TRAVEL

ARTS & CULTURE

GET GOING with VIDEOS: Your handy guide to San Diego's top events!

ESTHER RUBIO-SHEFFREY
May 4th, 2011

6

Share

5

Recommend

ON STAGE

Many theaters are wrapping up their 2010 - 2011 seasons, but there are plenty of other options to fill the gap. **The Old Globe** has two new productions.

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, **through June 5**, the theater hosts Alan Ayckbourn's U.S. premiere of **"Life of Riley."** The hilarious comedy examines how George Riley's closest friends deal with the news of his impending death. Cost: \$29 - \$56.

Beginning **Saturday, May 7**, you'll have five weeks to catch the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama -- **"August: Osage County."** This "modern day masterpiece" examines the dysfunctional dynamics of a family reunited under unpleasant events. Cost: \$29 - \$56.

ENLARGE



Sam Shepard's **"Curse of the Starving Class"** opens **Friday, May 6** at the 10th Avenue Theatre, located at 930 10th Ave in San Diego. This look at the American class system is studded with harsh realities, yet its conflicting views of the American Dream are hilariously amusing. Cost: \$15 to \$25 -- or pay what you can on Sunday, May 8.

Travel from Argentina to South Asia with two special performances at the **Balboa Theatre**. On **Friday, May 6** sit back and enjoy **King Clave and Leo Dan**, two legendary Argentinean entertainers, as they perform several Spanish musical numbers. Cost: \$51 - \$97. Then on **Saturday, May 7**, support UCSD students raise funds to help prevent sex-trafficking of young girls, by enjoying a diverse evening full of music, dance, and drama -- the **19th Annual Culture Show: Taal Se Taal Mila**. Cost: \$18.

NEED A LAUGH?

Tonight at the **Whistle Stop Bar**, the **F*** Alt Comedy** troupe featuring comedians Jonathan Fraser, April Ventura, Matt Burke, Bob Hansen, Dan Venti, Rajan Dharni, and Christian Spicer kicks off its monthly *free* show at 9 pm.

Brew Ha Ha Comedy Entertainment brings back one of their most requested headliners, **Anita Milner** on **Friday, May 6**, at **Island Juice**, 6784 El Cajon Blvd. Cost: *Free*. Check out Milner's comedy clip from her Pechanga performances:

Home / Entertainment / Go!

GO! Check It Out for May 8-14

- Story
- Discussion
- Image (3)

GO! Check It Out for May 8-14

By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times - The Californian | Posted: Sunday, May 8, 2011 12:00 am | No Comments Posted | Print

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

- 0 tweet

Recommend

Send

Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



Buy this photo

Old Globe associate artists Robert Foxworth and Robin Pearson Rose play Beverly Weston and Mattie Fae Aiken in Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "August: Osage County," at the Old Globe. (Photo courtesy by Henry DiRocco).



Theater

"August: Osage County"

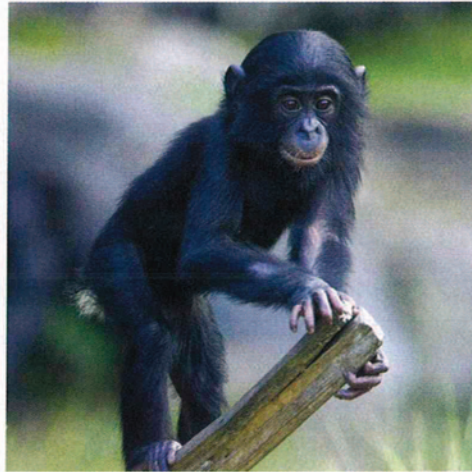
Opens May 12 in San Diego

Encinitas resident Robert Foxworth and Robin Pearson Rose of San Diego are featured in the Old Globe's cast for Tracy Letts' 2008 Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning dark comedy that tells the sprawling saga of three generations of a highly dysfunctional Oklahoma family; 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays; 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through June 12; The Old Globe, Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego; \$29-\$85; for mature audiences; 619-234-5623 or theoldglobe.org.

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
 Publication Name: Where Magazine
 Publishing Date: April 01, 2011
 Circulation: 28,000
 Page Number: 30,31,32,33
 Article Size: 159 sq inch
 Ad Value: \$4,537.47

EXPLORING

Balboa Park



Left to right: the graceful architecture of the House of Hospitality; a bonobo at play at the San Diego Zoo (located inside the park); the **Old Globe Theatre**.

Art, music and
performance
bloom year-round.

Spanning 1,200 acres of lush, beautifully landscaped terrain, Balboa Park is known as San Diego's "crown jewel," offering a variety of outdoor recreation options for kids and adults alike, not to mention a verdant respite from the bustle of the city's increasingly metropolitan pace. The park is also the seat of San Diego's thriving cultural scene.

Nestled between palm trees and botanical gardens, ornate Spanish Colonial buildings house many of the park's museums and art exhibits. Several of the buildings were constructed as part of two world fairs: the Panama-California Exposition in 1915-16, and the California-Pacific International Exposition in 1935-36.

It can take more than one day to see and enjoy each museum, garden and attraction. The **Visitors Center** (619.239.0512) in the House of Hospitality offers a Passport to Balboa Park, allowing admission to any of the park's museums for one week. (Keep in mind some museums are closed on Mondays.) Deluxe packages include passes to the neighboring **San Diego Zoo**. Or go high-tech and let the park's new iPhone app be your guide.

ARTS & CULTURE

Performing arts abound in the park. The **Old Globe Theatre** routinely presents top talent in world-renowned productions; spring features include *Rafta, Rafta...*, about the honeymoon of an Indian couple living in working-class London (March 19-April 24), Alan Ayckbourn's new comedy *Life of Riley* (April 30-June 5) and the Pulitzer-winning *August: Osage County* (May 7-June 12; see p. 51 for more theater listings).

Elsewhere in the park, the **Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre** presents whimsical puppet shows, while **Spreckels Organ Pavilion** houses the world's largest outdoor pipe organ, with some 4,500 pipes. Free concerts are offered Sundays at 2 pm.

The park is also home to groups celebrating culture. The **House of Pacific Relations International Cottages** promotes the heritage of countries around the world by hosting open houses and weekend festivals. Neighboring **WorldBeat Center** uses art, music, dance and education to celebrate African and indigenous cultures, while **Centro Cultural de la Raza** is a multidisciplinary center dedicated to the preservation of Chicano/Latino culture.

The park has a vast array of institutions celebrating the visual arts, past and present. Known for its presentation of eclectic traveling exhibitions, the **San Diego Museum of Art** also has a trove of Renaissance and Baroque works, plus a vast Asian collection; an exhibition of the art of Thomas Gainsborough continues in spring. The world-class **Museum of**



[RSS Feed](#)

The Old Globe Presents: "August: Osage County": May 7 – June 12, 2011

April 24, 2011 in [Upcoming Events](#) by [Sarah Jones](#)

The Old Globe Presents: "August: Osage County" from May 7th – June 12th, 2011. One of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade and winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this modern classic brought Broadway audiences to their feet cheering at every performance.

When their father goes missing, the huge, sprawling and completely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and sparks fly. Violet, the take-no-prisoners matriarch, struggles for control over a family set to implode over secrets, lies and betrayals. A large and complex modern-day masterpiece that the *New York Times* hailed as "flat-out, no asterisks and without qualifications, the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years."

Admission runs from \$29 – \$85. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit: www.theoldglobe.org



Tags: Balboa Park, performance, play, The Old Globe, theater
No Comments »

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name:	Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name:	San Diego Magazine
Publishing Date:	May 01, 2011
Circulation:	40,395
Page Number:	152
Article Size:	12 sq inch
Ad Value:	\$584.41

Page 1 of 1

» AGENDA



⤴ MAY 13 & 20

Thank Globe It's Friday

The Old Globe Theatre looks forward to the weekend just as much as the rest of us. Its festive Friday-night pre-show parties, featuring hosted wine, martinis, appetizers and dessert, are held this month in conjunction with the performances of *August: Osage County* and *Life of Riley*. 6:30 p.m. 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org.



brought to you by

San Diego Clipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: East County Gazette
Publishing Date: May 19, 2011
Circulation: 15,000
Page Number: 18
Article Size: 8 sq inch
Ad Value: \$46.32

Page 1 of 1

Old Globe Theatre

One of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade and winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the modern classic *August: Osage County* brought Broadway audiences to their feet cheering at every performance. When their father goes missing, the huge, sprawling and completely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and sparks fly. Violet, the take-no-prisoners matriarch, struggles for control over a family set to implode over secrets, lies and betrayals. A large and complex modern-day masterpiece that the New York Times hailed as "flat-out, no asterisks and without qualifications, the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years." Contains strong language.

The Shakespeare Summer Festival in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre runs May 29 - Saturday, September 24 with rotations of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Tempest*, *Amadeus*. (619) 23-GLOBE, www.TheOldGlobe.org

San Diego, CA


 BEST DEALS ONLINE
\$29/mo
 for 6 months
 Free HBO® + Cinemax®
 for 3 months
 GET IT NOW

get AT&T U-verse® TV, today!

Spend your weekend at the Old Globe!



Erin Reiter



Subscribe



The Old Globe

Credits: The Old Globe

Do you like this article?

Like

Send

One like. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

Spend this weekend at The Old Globe! Three fabulous shows are playing and you can enjoy one of them outside in the beautiful San Diego sunshine!

The Life of Riley

Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

April 30 - June 5

George Riley only has a few months to live and his friends deal with his tragic news in their own unique ways!

Post show forum on May 31st!

August: Osage County

Related Topics

[The Old Globe](#)

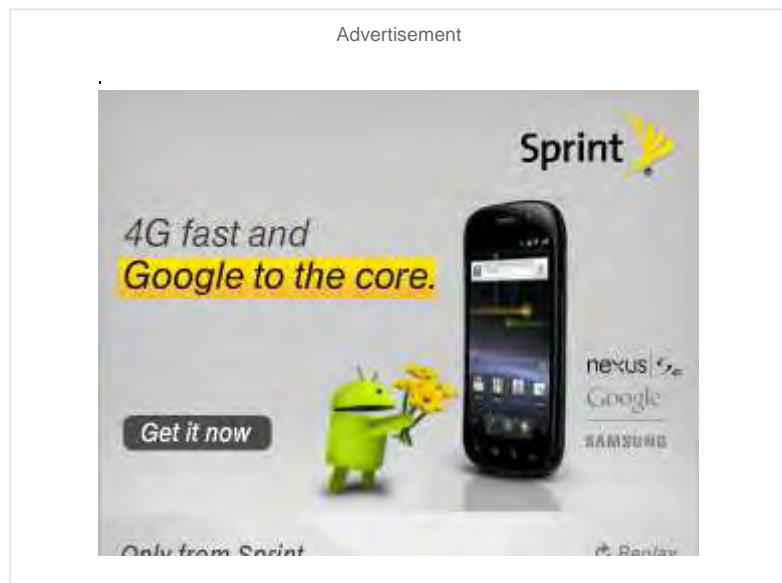
Old Globe Theatre
 Conrad Prebys Theatre Center
 May 7 - June 12

This Tony Award winning play by Tracy Letts has been acclaimed by the New York Times as “the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years.” When the father of this dysfunctional family goes missing this family reunites and is full of secrets, lies and betrayals.

Post show forum on June 1st!

Much Ado About Nothing– Opens this weekend!

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre
 May 29 - September 24



Clever plot twists, young lover, and witty words make this one of Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies!

For more information on show dates and times, tickets and special events go to www.theoldglobe.org

The Old Globe is located in San Diego’s Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. There are numerous free parking lots available throughout the park. For additional parking information visit www.BalboaPark.org.



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: LGBT Weekly
Publishing Date: May 26, 2011
Circulation: 50,000
Page Number: 22
Article Size: 12 sq inch
Ad Value: \$276.02

friday, may 27



Angela Reed, Carla Harting and Kelly McAndrew perform in *August: Osage County* at the Old Globe Theatre.

Out at the Globe

Another evening for the whole LGBT community. This event includes a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers, door prizes and a pre-show mixer. There is a choice of two shows: *August: Osage County*, one of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade and winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, or *Life of Riley*, Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious new comedy.

The Old Globe Theatre complex, in Balboa Park, all events start at 6:30 p.m., \$20 per person in addition to your theatre ticket (from \$29), 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org.

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: SDUT-Night & Day
Publishing Date: June 02, 2011
Circulation: 408,825
Page Number: 21,23
Article Size: 26 sq inch
Ad Value: \$4,063.37



Actors (from left) Angela Reed, Carla Harting and Kelly McAndrew star in "August: Osage County" at the Old Globe. HENRY DIROCCO

Critic's Choice

"August: Osage County": In its local premiere, Tracy Letts' lacerating, Pulitzer Prize-winning epic proves a work of savage majesty, shot through with equal measures of rage, sadness and laughter. A fearless cast and Sam Gold's crisp direction push this three-act, three-hour saga of a crumbling Oklahoma family past a slow start and into all manner of dark, difficult but highly dramatic territory. (James Hebert) Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through June 12. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org. \$29-\$70.

[Login](#) | [Register](#) | [RSS](#) | [Contests](#) | [Red List](#) | [Find a Paper](#) | [Archives](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) |



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Blogs](#) [Music](#) [Arts](#) [Events](#) [Eats](#) [Special Issues](#) [M](#)



[Home](#) / [Articles](#) / [Arts](#) / [Theater](#) / **From the ashes**

Wednesday, Jun 08, 2011

From the ashes

Chela and the rest of this week's theater listings

By [Martin Jones Westlin](#)



It's a cinch Chela (Dulce Maria Solis) couldn't count on her abusive husband as a dance partner, so she chose a broom instead.

At 17, Chela Solis looked easily twice her age. Six years later, she had the face of a longretired prizefighter, complete with the vestiges of a nose broken more than once. Such was the state of her marriage to a lunatic her daughter Dulce Maria Solis aptly calls "Finito" (he once nearly kicked the pregnant Chela to death while forcing her to swallow prescription meds). But *Chela*, a black comedy written and acted by the younger Solis, takes on as happy an ending as one can expect; a torturous

0

0

[Like](#)

[Share](#)

existence propels Mom out of the marriage and on to the reclamation of her life and her sexual identity.

This is an unvarnished look at one Mexico native's struggle to reinvent herself against crushing odds—and the neat thing about it is that Chela isn't some big name whose life is subject to the pushes and pulls of the public mind. Her anonymity is our anonymity, and that trait translates to a true cross-cultural experience and a pretty darn nice bit of theater.

Young Solis, who's been touring the show since 2004 (it premiered at San Diego's Actors Alliance Festival, where it snagged the Best Performance award), might be a little too used to it in spots—rather than seal the current scene (there are 18) with a prolonged look or stance, she's already moving into the next one.

But she's got some good physicality and secondary characters to color the Todd Blakesley-directed action, including a self-righteous East Indian shrink who's got meds on her agenda and her head up her ass.

This isn't a play so much as a public service about domestic violence.

Chela, part of Ion Theatre Company's Off-the-Radar series, runs June 12 and 19 at BLK BOX @ 6th & Penn, 3704 Sixth Ave. in Hillcrest. \$12-\$15. iontheatre.com

Opening

Our Town: George Gibbs and Emily Webb's everyday lives reveal humanity's deeper aspects in early 20th-century New England. Produced by Cygnet Theatre Company, it opens in previews June 9 at The Old Town Theatre. \$34-\$49. cygnettheatre.com

Amadeus: Composer Antonio Salieri throws up a series of roadblocks to sidetrack the career of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, his supposed archrival. Opens in previews June 12 at The Old Globe Theatre's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

The Tempest: Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, conjures up a storm to help restore his daughter Miranda to her rightful place. Now in previews, it opens June 19 at The Old Globe Theatre's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

Much Ado about Nothing: While Beatrice and Benedick hide their infatuation beneath witty barbs, young love blossoms as Hero and Claudio race to the altar, with the wicked Don John conspiring to break up the wedding. Now in previews, it opens June 29 at The Old Globe Theatre's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

Now Playing

A Chorus Line: A chorus of New Yorkers have different ambitions but one goal in mind—to land a job in a Broadway show. Produced by San Diego Musical Theatre, it runs through June 12 at The Lyceum Theatre, Downtown. \$30-\$60. sandiegomusicaltheatre.com

Related content

[The Marty Awards](#)

[Cross purposes](#)

[Blood feud](#)

[Committee on
Artistic & Cultural
Excellence](#)

Related to: [Chela](#)
Ion Theatre Company

A Dram of Drummhicit: An American entrepreneur has found the perfect Scottish island on which to build his new golf course—but as secrets are unearthed, the true nature of the island wreaks havoc. Produced by La Jolla Playhouse, it runs through June 12 at the Mandell Weiss Theatre at UCSD. \$36-\$59. lajollaplayhouse.org

H August: Osage County: The obsolescent Violet Weston is the main culprit as her faded family chokes on its secrets, lies and deception. Through June 12 at The Old Globe Theatre mainstage in Balboa Park. \$29- \$67. oldglobe.org

Foggerty's Fairy: A man gets a chance to obliterate any misdeed in his life he chooses, only to find himself dredging up more bad judgment. Produced by Talent to aMuse, it runs through June 18 at Swedenborg Hall in University Heights. \$18. talenttoamuse.com

Rounding Third: Coaches Don and Michael have very different views on their Little League team—Donald wants the kids to win, while Michael wants them to enjoy the game. Produced by Scripps Ranch Theatre, it runs through June 25 at the Legler- Benbough Theatre in Scripps Ranch. \$10-\$22. scrippsranchtheatre.org

Swingtime Canteen: This show looks at the films and personalities that defined the American consciousness during World War II. Through June 25 at OnStage Playhouse in Chula Vista. \$10-\$20. onstageplayhouse.org

Humble Boy: Felix Humble confronts his mental and emotional deficiencies as he tries to fulfill his familial and professional responsibilities. Through June 26 at Patio Playhouse in Escondido. \$7-\$15. patioplayhouse.com

My Name Is Asher Lev: A young Hasidic Jewish artist is torn between following his heart and following his faith. Through June 26 at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach. northcoastrep.org

Swimming in the Shallows: Barb learns that Thai monks own only eight things—and she wonders if that's all she wants, even as her husband lavishes her with new clothes. Produced by InnerMission Productions, it runs through June 26 at Diversionary Theatre in University Heights. \$15-\$20. innermissionproductions.org

Ten Cent Night: Country music legend Hewitt Finley just put a bullet in his brain—now it's up to his family to soldier on. Produced by MOXIE Theatre, it runs through June 26 at The Rolando Theatre in the College Area. \$22-\$40. moxietheatre.com

The Music Man: Conman Harold Hill comes to River City with a scam involving a boys marching band, but things don't go according to plan. Produced by Lamb's Players Theatre, it runs through July 24 at the Ione and Paul Harter Stage in Coronado. \$22-\$58. lambplayers.org

*** miXtape:** Generation X was torn between disillusionment and hope in this cavalcade of music from the 1980s. Produced by Lamb's Players Theatre, it runs through Sept. 4 at the Horton Grand Theatre, Downtown. \$28-\$58. lambplayers.org

THEATRE

CHECK THIS OUT

From the ashes: At 17, Chela Solis looked easily twice her age. Six years later, she had the face of a long-retired prizefighter, complete with the vestiges of a nose broken more than once. Such was the state of her marriage to a lunatic her daughter Dulce Maria Solis aptly calls "Finito" (he once nearly kicked the pregnant Chela to death while forcing her to swallow prescription meds). But *Chela*, a black comedy written and acted by the younger Solis, takes on as happy an ending as one can expect; a torturous existence propels Mom out of the marriage and on to the reclamation of her life and her sexual identity.

This is an unvarnished look at one Mexico native's struggle to reinvent herself against crushing odds—and the neat thing about it is that Chela isn't some big name whose life is subject to the pushes and pulls of the public mind. Her anonymity is *our* anonymity, and that trait translates to a true cross-cultural experience and a pretty darn nice bit of theater.

Young Solis, who's been touring the show since 2004 (it premiered at San Diego's Actors Alliance Festival, where it snagged the Best Performance award), might be a little too used to it in spots—rather than seal the current scene (there are 18) with a prolonged look or stance, she's already moving into the next one.

But she's got some good physicality and secondary characters to color the Todd Blakesley-directed action, including a self-righteous East Indian shrink who's got meds on her agenda and her head up her ass.

This isn't a play so much as a public service about domestic violence.

Chela, part of Ion Theatre Company's Off-the-Radar series, runs June 12 and 19 at BLK BOX @ 6th & Penn, 3704 Sixth Ave. in Hillcrest. \$12-\$15. iontheatre.com

—Martin Jones Westlin

OPENING

Our Town: George Gibbs and Emily Webb's everyday lives reveal humanity's deeper aspects in early 20th-century New England. Produced by Cygnet Theatre Company, it opens in previews June 9 at The Old Town Theatre. \$34-\$49. cygnettheatre.com

Amadeus: Composer Antonio Salieri throws up a series of roadblocks to sidetrack the career of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, his supposed archrival. Opens in previews June 12 at The Old Globe Theatre's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

The Tempest: Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, conjures up a storm to help restore his daughter Miranda to her rightful place. Now in previews, it opens June 19 at The Old Globe Theatre's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org



Chela

Much Ado about Nothing: While Beatrice and Benedick hide their infatuation beneath witty barbs, young love blossoms as Hero and Claudio race to the altar, with the wicked Don John conspiring to break up the wedding. Now in previews, it opens June 29 at The Old Globe Theatre's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29-\$67. oldglobe.org

NOW PLAYING

A Chorus Line: A chorus of New Yorkers have different ambitions but one goal in mind—to land a job in a Broadway show. Produced by San Diego Musical Theatre, it runs through June 12 at The Lyceum Theatre, Downtown. \$30-\$60. sandiegomusicaltheatre.com

A Dram of Drummhicit: An

American entrepreneur has found the perfect Scottish island on which to build his new golf course—but as secrets are unearthed, the true nature of the island wreaks havoc. Produced by La Jolla Playhouse, it runs through June 12 at the Mandell Weiss Theatre at UCSD. \$36-\$59. lajollaplayhouse.org

★ August: Osage County:

The obsolescent Violet Weston is the main culprit as her faded family chokes on its secrets, lies and deception. Through June 12 at The Old Globe Theatre mainstage in Balboa Park. \$29-

\$67. oldglobe.org

Fogerty's Fairy: A man gets a chance to obliterate any misdeed in his life he chooses, only to find himself dredging up more bad judgment. Produced by Talent to aMuse, it runs through June 18 at Swedenborg Hall in University Heights. \$18. talenttoamuse.com

Rounding Third: Coaches Don and Michael have very different views on their Little League team—Donald wants the kids to win, while Michael wants them to enjoy the game. Produced by Scripps Ranch Theatre, it runs through June 25 at the Legler-Benbough Theatre in Scripps Ranch. \$10-\$22. scrippsranchtheatre.org

For full listings, please visit
"On Stage" at sdcitybeat.com.

The City: Top to Bottom

thursday, may 26



Polly Lee and Lucas Hall star in La Jolla Playhouse's world premiere production of *A Dram of Drummhicit*.

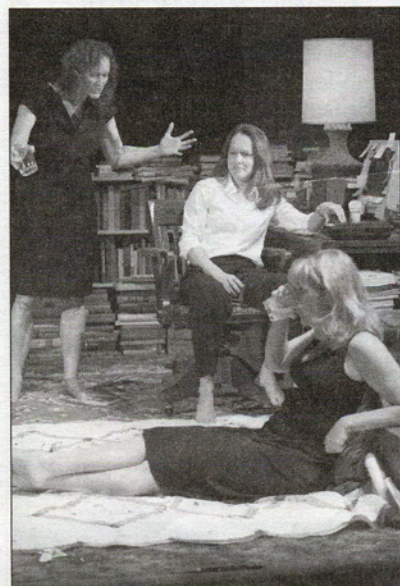
Out and About at La Jolla Playhouse

Out and About is an all-inclusive Thursday evening social mixer and performance series for San Diego's LGBT community. Enjoy signature cocktails and delicious appetizers at a happy hour mixer, followed by an evening production.

This Thursday La Jolla Playhouse presents *A Dram of Drummhicit*. Artistic Director Christopher Ashley directs the world premiere of acclaimed playwright Arthur Kopit and Anton Dudley's supernatural comedy.

Mandell Weiss Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, in La Jolla, 8 p.m., performance tickets from \$41, 858-550-1010, lajollaplayhouse.org.

friday, may 27



Angela Reed, Carla Harting and Kelly McAndrew perform in *August: Osage County* at the Old Globe Theatre.

Out at the Globe

Another evening for the whole LGBT community. This event includes a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers, door prizes and a pre-show mixer. There is a choice of two shows: *August: Osage County*, one of the most acclaimed plays of the last decade and winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, or *Life of Riley*, Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious new comedy.

The Old Globe Theatre complex, in Balboa Park, all events start at 6:30 p.m., \$20 per person in addition to your theatre ticket (from \$29), 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org.

saturday, may 28



Gail Jhonson appears at Anthology.

Smooth jazz

Catch the Gail Jhonson Band at Anthology. Gail Jhonson is a Philadelphia-bred jazz pianist who has performed with artists like Bobby Womack, Pink, Norman Brown, Vanessa Williams, Bobby Lyle/featuring Mindi Abair, Dave Koz, Jermaine Jackson and Sheila E.

"I enjoy both the jazz world and R&B world," says Jhonson, "I approach contemporary jazz, or smooth jazz, like Grover Washington, Jr.: I keep the jazz melodies and the funk rhythms. I want everyone to have a good time."

Anthology, 1337 India Street, in San Diego, 7:30 p.m., tickets from \$10, 619-595-0300, anthologysd.com.

ARTS



THE LIVELY ARTS

Charlene Baldrige

"It's May! It's May! The merry month of May!" and San Diego's arts scene is lively, lusty and alive.

• Through May 15 at the **Lyceum Theatre**, 79 Horton Plaza, award-winning playwright Anna Deavere Smith ("Fires in the Mirror," "Twilight: Los Angeles") presents her latest one-woman show, "Let Me Down Easy," for which she interviewed more than 300 people, including cyclist Lance Armstrong. The concern is the vulnerability of the human body, the resilience of the human spirit and the cost of healthcare.

Nothing could be timelier or more important. Visit www.sdrep.org (619) 544-1000 for tickets.

• May 14-22 at the **Civic Theatre**, San Diego Opera presents that sultry siren of grand opera, a gypsy named Carmen, who is loved excessively by two men, a toreador and an AWOL soldier. Sung by an international company of outstanding singers, Georges Bizet's "Carmen" is a visual and aural spectacle, lusty and full of familiar melodies not to be missed, accompanied by San Diego Symphony under the baton of resident conductor Karen Keltner. Visit www.sdopera.com to hear excerpts and order tickets.

• May 7 through June 12, **The Old Globe** presents Tracy Letts' Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning "August: Osage County," directed by Sam Gold and featuring a stunningly talented

ensemble. When dear old dad goes missing, the huge and hugely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and it's no-holds-barred, skeletons-out-of-the-closet togetherness that the New York Times called "the most exciting play Broadway has seen in years." Warning: contains strong language. www.theoldglobe.org or (619) 23-GLOBE.

• May 27-29 at **Copley Symphony Hall** (Seventh Avenue and B Street) San Diego Symphony presents all-Beethoven concerts with guest artist Gil Shaham playing the Violin Concerto in D Major with the orchestra under the baton of artistic director Jahja Ling. Also programmed are Beethoven's Overture to "Coriolan" and the famous Symphony No. 5 in C minor, with its unforgettable "fate" motif. Go to the website for tickets and an audio preview from Nuvi Mehta, the voice of San Diego Symphony, www.sandiegosymphony.org or call (619) 235-0804.



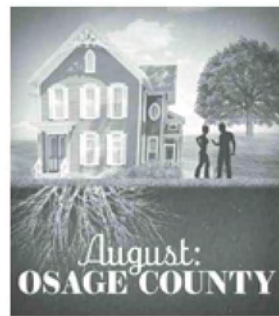
Tango with Colette Performance Group Dancers

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
 Publication Name: San Diego Yu Yu
 Publishing Date: May 01, 2011
 Circulation: 10,150
 Page Number: 34
 Article Size: 21 sq inch
 Ad Value: \$383.55

“August: Osage County”
 『オーガスト／オーセージ カウンティ』

老父の失踪と家族の秘密／トニー賞&ピューリッツァー賞受賞の話題作

⑤ オクラホマ州の田舎町。老夫バーバリー・ウェストンは妻ヴァイオレットのために、住み込みのハウスキーパーとして若いアメリカインディアン女性ジョナを雇う。ヴァイオレットは複数の処方薬を常用しすぎて中毒症状を起こし、精神的にも異状をきたしていた。彼女は露骨に新参ハウスキーパーを忌み嫌うが、ジョナは料理も家事も優秀だった。間もなくバーバリーが行方不明になる。老夫妻の長女バーバラ、ヴァイオレットの妹マティらが家族を連れてウェストン家に集まり、バーバリーの安否を気づかうが、5日を経過しても彼の消息は分からなかった。



August: Osage County / The Globe Theatres

⑥ 2008年にトニー賞最優秀作品賞とピューリッツァー賞ドラマ部門を獲得したブロードウェイ戯曲。老夫婦と成長した娘たち、その家族をめぐる、アル中、薬物中毒、不倫、離婚、マリファナに耽溺するティーンなど、現代社会における一般家庭の問題と関係を鋭く描く。2007年6月にシカゴで初演を迎え、同年12月にブロードウェイデビューを果たす。2008年にはロンドンでも上演された。

⑦ THE GLOBE THEATRES (Old Globe Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park / ☎ 619-239-2255 (T)。期間 — 5/7 (土) ~ 6/12 (日)。上演 — 火・水曜：7pm、木・金曜：8pm、土曜：2pm & 8pm、日曜：2pm & 7pm。チケット — \$29 ~ \$70。
<http://www.oldglobe.org>



brought to you by

SanDiegoClipping
the future of news management

Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: San Diego Yu Yu
Publishing Date: May 16, 2011
Circulation: 10,150
Page Number: 6
Article Size: 9 sq inch
Ad Value: \$170.46

Page 1 of 1

"August: Osage County"
『オーガスト／オーセージ カウンティ』

老父の失踪と家族の秘密／トニー賞&ピューリッツァー賞受賞作

August: Osage County / The Globe Theatres



📍 & 📍 オクラホマ州の田舎町を舞台に、老夫婦と成長した娘たち、その家族をめぐる、アル中、薬物中毒、不倫、離婚、マリファナに耽溺するティーンなど、現代社会における一般家庭の問題と関係を鋭く描く。2008年にトニー賞最優秀作品賞とピューリッツァー賞ドラマ部門を獲得したブロードウェイ戯曲。

📍 THE GLOBE THEATRES (Old Globe Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park / ☎ 619-239-2255(T)。期間—6/12(日)迄。上演—火・水曜：7pm、木・金曜：8pm、土曜：2pm & 8pm、日曜：2pm & 7pm。チケット—\$29～\$70。http://www.oldglobe.org